



Traders look to build on success as Christmas looms

SUNDAY MARKET IS HAILED A HIT

By Lee Watton

TRADERS are hopeful its promising Sunday Market start will continue until Christmas after a successful opening last weekend.

For the first time in its long history, Dudley Market welcomed shoppers last Sunday and stallholders hope interest will continue to grow as the weeks progress.

It comes after traders took over responsibility for the day-to-day running of the market from Dudley Council. They said the market had been busy in the morning and while it had slowed down later in the afternoon people had continued to visit during the day.

Len Lenihan, chairman of Dudley Market Traders Ltd which has taken over running of the market, said it had been a strong start.

"To say it was the very first time, it went really well and everyone is very confident it will grow as it gets closer to Christmas," he said.

"Everyone is very pleased with the response. Now we can build on it."

Boost

Mr Lenihan said around half of the available stalls were operating on Sunday. This is expected to increase as the weeks go on. Shoppers Sarah and Simon Townsend, from Dudley, said they thought the market opening on a Sunday in the run-up to Christmas was a good idea.

Sarah, aged 50, said: "I think it will be a real boost for traders and visitors."

Trader Jo Forrest was running a stall with her sister Jessie Powell said: "I think the market is generating a lot of interest and events such as this help that."

Dawn Cope, 33, from the town, was at the market with her family. She said: "I think a lot of people will take advantage of the same opportunity once more people know about it."

Trader Wendy Farmer, who sells clothing for youngsters and has traded from the market for 25 years, said it had been a really promising start.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif was pleased to see the town busy on the opening Sunday. He said: "I think it's an excellent move forward, not only for Dudley but for the borough. It's great to see independent businesses and markets being given the opportunity to thrive and have the chance to do well."

ROLL UP, ROLL UP FOR HALF-TERM CIRCUS FUN



Gandey's Circus performers, who will entertain audiences at the Merry Hill Centre, including some death-defying acts

ROLL up, roll up – the circus has arrived in town and promises a thrilling week of death-defying acts.

Gandey's Circus has set up at Merry Hill shopping centre for the half-term week.

All human acts ranging from the likes high wire artist Marco Polo, acrobats Duo Serik and Romy and her magical Aerial Crystal Ball aim to bring laughter and suspense. Duo Sifolini, who are recognised as one of the most dangerous acts in the circus world, have brought along their Giant Space Wheel – which will see them perform 15 metres above

the ground without any safety aids, while Chico Rico the clown will also be getting up to his usual antics.

Circus director Phillip Gandey, said: "All the artists are very excited to be performing in West Midlands after hearing of the warm reception we were given last year."

"Circus as an art form has gone through significant changes in the recent years and it's uplifting to see there's still a thirst for live big top productions."

"This production has been a year in the planning so we're very much looking forward

to sharing our brand new family show this half term."

Producer Carol Gandey said: "We try to make each of our shows unique, giving the audience a completely new experience by showcasing the amazing skills of these highly trained performers. The sights, the smells and the sounds of a Big Top production give viewers a truly memorable experience."

The fully heated theatre big top will be on the North car park of shopping centre until November 1 with ticket prices ranging from £8 to £26.

PETITION

Chance to question leader over cuts

AN online petition has been launched opposing plans to close Dudley Museum and Art Gallery under cost-cutting measures.

Dudley Council wants to axe the long-running site, in Priory Street, as it looks to save tens of millions of pounds over the next three years.

A petition, already signed by more than 700 people, has been launched on website 38 Degrees aimed at stopping the closure and selling off the museum.

Once complete the petition will be submitted to Dudley Council. Members of the public are to be given the chance to quiz the leader of Dudley Council about proposals to cut services in order to save millions of pounds.

The local authority announced drastic savings proposals last week as it aims to save £20 million over the next three years. The cuts include closing Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, axing up to 275 jobs and cutting opening hours at libraries.

And the council confirmed jobs will be lost at libraries in the shake-up.

Some members of staff will be invited to apply for voluntary redundancy.

Leader of the Labour-run council Pete Lowe will face the public via a special online forum between 6 and 7pm tonight (Thursday) to hear views on the proposals. The forum will be able to access through the Dudley Council Facebook page.

● Axe – Page 3

FOOTBALL

Glassboys drawn at Dover in Cup

STOURBRIDGE have been drawn away to Dover Athletic in the FA Cup first round.

The Glassboys eased past local rivals Kidderminster Harriers 3-0 on Saturday and have been rewarded with the game against the National League side.

It is the fourth time in seven seasons Stourbridge have progressed to the first round proper with the previous occasions being in 2009, 2011 and 2013.

The first round fixture will take place on the weekend of November 7.

● Full story – Back Page

INSIDE:

TRUST SHEDS ITS OLD CENTRE



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Academies paying for patrols 'will save money'

ACADEMY schools have enough money to pay for their own lollipop men and women, Dudley Council's finance boss said after the proposal was put forward as part of multi-million cuts.

The cash-strapped council no longer wants to foot the bill for school crossing patrols at academy schools, which it has no influence over.

Academies are independent of council control and receive funding directly from the Department of Education.

Council bosses say savings must be found to stop the Labour-run authority from going bankrupt, blaming the Government for reducing its grant.

Finance member Councillor David Sparks said making academies pay for their own school crossing patrols was another area where cash could be saved. The changes are due to come into force from next April.

But he suggested academies would not be forced into the move. "This is not us saying 'we don't agree with academies so we are going to charge them for crossing patrols,'" he said.

"They get an amount of money to fund things like crossing patrols."

Dudley councillor Ken Finch believes paying for lollipop ladies would not be much of a stretch for most academy schools.

The Labour councillor said: "Academy schools, as someone who was on a seat of governors for many years, have got finances. They will probably be able to afford it."

"As long as we have got traffic patrols, that is the main thing. We have got to consider the safety of pupils."

Task group set up for refugees

A TASK group has been launched in Dudley ahead of the borough welcoming 20 refugee families fleeing Syria.

The group will be led by the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service. It will co-ordinate voluntary sector provision for the new arrivals.

Spokesman Terry Gee said there were no dates for arrivals but work had started in setting up the group.

Dudley Council has offered to welcome the families under the current humanitarian settlement programme.

It will offer housing, health, education and other support to families.

Help provided will be funded nationally but council bosses said the borough has a duty to do what it can to help some of the thousands of refugees fleeing Syria.

20mph speed limit proposed at school

A 20mph speed limit may be introduced outside a Dudley primary school. Dudley Council wants to improve safety outside Kates Hill Community Primary School. A final decision will be made on November 5.

Eyesore block fetches £800k at auction



Cavendish House - £800,000 sale

AN eyesore office block which has blighted the Dudley skyline for years has been sold for £800,000 after going under the hammer at auction.

Dudley Council has said talks are already under way with the new owners of dilapidated Cavendish House. Officials said proposals were now expected to take a 'huge step forward'.

The identity of the buyer has not been confirmed with officials from London auctioneers Allsop, which carried out the sale, saying only that the building had been bought by a 'local property company'. They confirmed

the complex had fetched £800,000 when it went under the hammer. This was less than the guide price of between £1.2 and £1.5m.

Previous owners Abstract decided to put the office block up for sale as Dudley Council favoured the £50 million Porters Field project submitted by developer Avenbury.

Bosses from the company said they wanted to concentrate on projects other than in Dudley.

Former owners Abstract said they were pleased the building had been sold and believed the complex would

still play an important role in the regeneration of that part of the town.

Director Chris McPherson: "Cavendish House is a key piece in the jigsaw for proposals submitted for that part of the town centre."

If successful, the Porters Field project would see restaurants, shops and houses built alongside a supermarket.

Under that scheme, Cavendish House would be demolished to allow for a modern store and a stylish public piazza. Officials say the project would bring in an estimated 500 jobs. Avenbury was unavailable for comment.

Reduced library hours as museum faces axe

OPENING hours will be reduced at libraries across the Dudley borough under new proposals for the future running of the service.

Many libraries will also become single staffed under proposals put forward by Dudley Council bosses.

Cuts would also be made to opening hours at the borough's archives centre in Dudley.

Councillors have been advised to approve a plan to establish a Libraries, Archives and Learning Mutual, which would involve the services being run by council employees, independent of the authority itself. Councillors and volunteers will also be invited to get on board.

If given the nod, the changes would begin to come into force from next April, with single staffing to be introduced to all libraries during mornings apart from main libraries in Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

From April 2017 library opening hours would be reduced. Dudley's archives centre, which opened in 2013 at a cost of £6m, would also have its weekly opening hours slashed from 41-and-a-half to 30-and-a-half.

Committed

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for libraries and archives said: "We are committed to delivering high quality services to our existing customers and at the same time providing opportunities to widen access to community services."

Conservative opposition leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "It shouldn't be the decision of the council to reduce opening hours. The council should set up the new delivery model and then hand it over and let them decide how to run it."

The news follows the announcement that Dudley Museum and Art Gallery is to close, up to 275 council jobs are to go and council tax to rise in a bid to save £20m over three years. Public toilets, dog bins and gritting lorries could also be in the firing line.

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said the council had to take tough decisions. The museum closure, as well as cutting opening hours at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, could save more than £750,000 by 2018/19.

But Keith Turley, chairman of the Dudley Society of Artists, said: "I am horrified."

Steve Briscoe, who is behind plans to establish a new Dudley Civic Society described the cuts as a 'kick in the teeth'.



Marion Griffiths, who is marking 25 years as a volunteer, at the annual pink day at the White House Breast Cancer Care group, Dudley

Surprise party has Marion in pink

WHEN breast cancer survivor Marion Griffiths was given the all clear, she decided to do something for other women who were going through the same experience.

Now 25 years on, she has been recognised for her efforts helping people through their ordeal.

The ladies at the Breast Cancer Care group who meet each month at the White House Cancer Support centre in Ednam Road, Dudley, showed their appreciation for Marion by throwing her a surprise party.

Her achievement coincided with the group's annual pink day, which is held every October to raise awareness of breast cancer.

The group, made up of around 30 women, has played an important part in helping people get through breast cancer, offering support and encouragement. All the members are able to share their own experiences.

Marion, aged 68, said: "It's an absolutely fabulous group. We talk and offer help and encouragement. We have all come out the other side so it gives them help and encouragement."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Homes pledge to bring more cash

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has said it will aim to ensure 1,000 homes are built every year across the borough until 2019 to bring in much-needed money through council tax payments.

They have targeted council tax as a way of bringing in more cash and will seek to push through developments over the next three years.

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said: "One of the borough's huge strengths is the fact that it is a desirable and attractive place where people want to live."

Flats plan at pub site are backed

A DERELICT pub in Coseley will be turned into flats after proposals were approved by council planners.

The Hop and Barleycorn, in Mason Street, is to be converted into five apartments after plans submitted by Dudley Estates were given the green light by Dudley Council on the condition the developer submits a car parking layout plan, an amended site layout and details of three external electric vehicle charging points.

The proposals were re-submitted after an earlier application was withdrawn in August.

Memorial work now under way

WORK to install a restored war memorial at its new location in Woodseton is under way.

The monument, which stood outside Mount Tabor Church for many years, will be sited further along Sedgley Road West.

New engraving has been etched onto the memorial and workers have begun putting the memorial in place. Councillor Keiran Casey said: "We wanted to have it in place in time for Remembrance services this year."

Ex-welder Sean to dish out a barrel of laughs

A BLACK Country comedian will headline Can Comedy's next Barrel of Laughs night in Lye.

Former Dudley welder Sean Percival, who also writes comedy scripts, will perform his stand-up act at Sadlers Brewhouse and Bar on the Conyers Trading Estate, Station Drive on November 25 from 8pm.

Also appearing will be Michael Crump, who starred in Lenny Henry's recent comedy drama Danny and the Human Zoo.

Chef curries favour

A CHEF from Halesowen has been voted one of the best curry cooks in the UK. Kayum Ali, executive chef at Spice Fusion in Long Lane, was one of 40 cooks to receive official recognition for their contribution to the curry industry at the Curry Chef of the Year Awards.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



GREAT inventions of our time. A reader reports a BBC local news webpage informing us that a cyclist involved in a crash was wearing "see-through cycling glasses." They are definitely the best sort.

BEHOLD, a bright new golden age dawns between Britain and China. China's President Xi and his wife get three nights in Buckingham Palace, a ride in a golden carriage and a meeting with William and Kate. Chinese tourists get cheaper travel visas to visit Britain. We Brits get a new nuclear power station which won't be finished until 2025 and will then produce electricity twice as expensive as it is now. You may call this a great leap forward but it looks to me like China's revenge for the Opium Wars.

INTERESTINGLY, it is estimated that the new power station at Hinkley Point will produce enough electricity to supply six million homes. It is undiplomatic to ask how much of this electricity will be consumed by Chinese tourists?

TECHNICAL terms of our age. BT says the engineers fixing my landline (yet again) may be delayed because our home is in a 'high work-stack area'.

LAST Wednesday was the exact date that Marty McFly and the Doc travelled to in the movie Back to the Future II. Cue nostalgic smiles from TV and radio presenters, a rash of celebration parties and the overuse of words such as iconic and ground-breaking. All today's hype ("The World Celebrates" - Guardian, etc) is based on the assumption that everybody not only loves the Back to the Future trilogy but remembers them word-perfectly. Include me out. They may be moderately entertaining and have a certain cultish appeal but they're not exactly Star Wars, are they?



DAME Eileen Atkins objects to men taking women's roles on the grounds that actresses already face 'an infinitely tougher time than men' on the stage. Sadly, she's up against progress. These days, regardless of race, age or gender, anyone can play anything. As Monty Python's Life of Brian reminded us, it is every man's right to be a woman.

BILL Bryson declares in his new book, The Road to Little Dribbling, that Britain was at its best in the early 1970s, having achieved 'a kind of perfection'. Really? I must have missed it. In 1971 I found shirts at Preston market for a bargain £3, while a new tyre for the car was £6. The catch? I was earning less than £12 a week. In today's global, cheap-as-chips world you cannot begin to explain how much it cost simply to feed and dress ourselves in the 1970s.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Two on shortlist for trade award

A BUILDER from Brierley Hill and an electrician from Dudley have been shortlisted in an annual search to find Britain's top tradesperson. Steve Timmins and Marc Deeley have seen off competition from tradesmen and women across the West Midlands and will battle it out in the regional final later this month. Mr Timmins, aged 54, who trades under the name STBCS, said: "I re-

ally want to break down negative stereotypes surrounding tradespeople. "I'm really proud of all of my jobs and work extra time, and travel any distance when needed. **Satisfied** "If a customer isn't satisfied then neither am I." Mr Deeley, aged 44, retrained as an electrician nine years ago and set

up the business D and M Electrical Solutions with a partner called Dean Wildblood. He reckons his dedication to training up future electricians will help him to stand out from the crowd. "We set up the company five years ago and have gone from strength to strength," he said. "Last year, we helped Dudley College by taking the first year electri-

cal students with us for a few days a week to give them experience of working in the trade. Following this, we took one of them on as our apprentice and we will be doing the same again this year." The regional final of the competition, run by Screwfix, was taking place at the Aston Screwfix store on the Aston Cross Industrial Estate this week.

Museum's entrance is designed for pupils

A NEW £150,000 entrance for school pupils arriving at the Black Country Living Museum has been opened.

Museum bosses said the entrance would also further improve links with Dudley Zoo and Dudley canal tunnels. Guests attended the launch of the new entrance which is accessible off a new link road created off Tipton Road near Dudley Archives. It encompasses a single-storey brick building that has an inside function room, covered outdoor area and toilet block.

Cast iron window frames and gas lamps are also in keeping with the museum.

The build, that has been two years in the making, was funded by the European Regional Development Fund and also The Connie and Albert Taylor Trust.

Head of learning at the museum, Mel Weatherley, said: "This part of the museum was completely overgrown before and school trips were being organised on the car park. But now we have this entrance it will make it a lot easier for a range of activities to take place. Inside we have a projector and a screen that will allow us to engage with groups better.

"Outside it will be interesting for people to arrive in a different area too, with an entirely different view of the museum from what they would usually see.

"It has given us a lot more space and our adult groups can make use of it too - it's kind of like an industrial workshop."

Police to continue car park patrols

POLICE say they will continue to patrol a vandalism-plagued Stourbridge car park, which is being closed at night.

The Ryemarket car park in Stourbridge was previously open 24/7 but it will now close at 8.30pm Monday to Saturday and at 5pm Sundays. Council bosses said they had been left with no option following numerous complaints about youths hanging around into the early hours.

Sergeant Andy Holder confirmed patrols would continue during opening hours and said Wollaston and Stourbridge Town police team was trying to get Public Space Protection Orders to curb anti-social behaviour at the car park. He added: "We have engaged with local schools around graffiti."

Family of chinchillas are donated to zoo

THREE chinchillas have been donated to Dudley Zoo after their owner developed an allergy to them.

Meeko, Tink and their daughter Lady have been handed over to the presentation team in the Discovery Centre at the Castle Hill attraction.

Trust go from shed to impressive canal centre

by Claire Butler

A £3.4 million visitor centre run by Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust has opened its doors to the public.

Featuring a restaurant, gift shop and learning space for schools, The Portal will also be available for wedding receptions and community events.

The modern building is situated next to the entrance to Dudley's network of canal tunnels and limestone caverns.

"It is an incredibly exciting time for us," said the trust's chief executive, Nick Morris. "I think when you look at what we have left behind in our old premises of the green shed, it has really transformed the outlook for everyone.

"Now we have a great education area which allows us to properly work alongside schools for the whole day. Our rooms can also be used for activities such as senior days and wedding facilities too," he explained.

Funding

The £3.4 million centre comes following funding supported by the European Regional Development Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Biffa Award and Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership. It has created 15 jobs.

Mr Morris said: "The shed used to leak was covered with a tarpaulin most of the time, with no heating and no running water, so it could be quite difficult.

"We used to come into work of a morning and go straight to the tap and fill up a water bottle just to make a cup of tea. Now we have staff showers and central heating. It's great."

The Portal also features an interactive exhibition in the Biffa Award Gallery, and a restaurant called Gongoozlers, offering posh Black Country nosh. It can seat up to 85 people.

After opening its doors on October 19, it has already received positive feedback. Mr Morris added: "Everyone who has visited so far is really impressed."



Open for business — Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's new headquarters, off Birmingham New Road



The restaurant at The Portal, selling posh nosh



Canal view — Mr Morris on the balcony at The Portal



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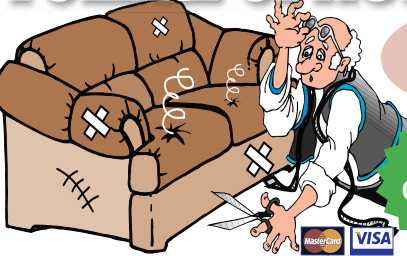
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Free parking offer at shopping centre

SHOPPERS will be able to park for free for two hours at a shopping centre in Brierley Hill.

The Moor Centre, which was bought by Evolve Estates earlier this year, is running the offer from now until the new year after listening to customers and traders.

The two hours of free parking will be available seven days a week during the run up to Christmas.

The Moor Centre has 22 retail units and includes High Street names including Iceland, Boots, Card Factory, 99p Stores, and Greggs.

Meeting over bid for supermarket

CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans to build a convenience store next to a popular Cradley Heath pub will hold a meeting on November 10.

It has been organised by the Friends of Haden Cross ahead of a site visit from councillors the following week.

New River Retail wants to demolish a garage by the Haden Cross Inn, in Halesowen Road, and build a supermarket with parking.

Pub supporters have a petition with more than 500 signatures backing the inn, which has been granted Asset of Community Value status.

Couples keen to marry in chapels

FORTY couples have already enquired about holding a ceremony at the revamped Lye and Wollescote Chapels, months before the refurbished Victorian buildings open again.

A £1 million project to revamp the chapels is nearing completion and a new register office will open at the site on Cemetery Road, Lye, in the spring.

Dudley Council said the site for the services will be renamed the Thomas Robinson Building, after its original architect.

2,000 poppies in art project on display

COMMUNITY groups and adult learning students from across Dudley have created an art installation to mark Armistice Day.

More than 2,000 poppies will go on display at the council house and will be on show until after the Armistice Day commemorations.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "We continue to ensure we don't forget the involvement of our service men and women in both past and current conflicts."

Youths gathering

YOBS have been throwing litter and disturbing residents and shoppers in Lye.

Police are liaising with councillors over the issue after residents reported their concerns on High Street.

Groups have been gathering in the evenings around Christ Church.

High-speed broadband roll out's milestone

MORE than 2,000 businesses and homes across the Black Country are now able to access high-speed fibre broadband for the first time.

It is the latest milestone of the Black Country Broadband Project, with engineers having installed more than 20 road-side cabinets, which enable people to connect to the new network.

The £12.2 million project is a partnership between the Black Country LEP, BT and the Government's Broadband Delivery UK programme, supported by the local authorities in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Ninder Johal, chairman of the group and LEP Board member, said: "Reaching the 2000 milestone is an important step in delivering our ambition of a minimum 98 per cent high-speed fibre broadband availability by the end of June 2017. High-speed fibre broadband will bring a terrific boost to the local economy."

High-speed fibre broadband is already available in around 92 per cent of the area, more than 468,000 homes and businesses.

Parts of Walsall, Wednesbury and West Bromwich were among the first areas to benefit from the roll-out, including Blackheath, Langley, Rowley, Bristall, St Paul's, Tividale and parts of Oldbury. Work will begin later this year on the second phase, which will extend to areas of Brierley Hill, Dudley and Tipton.

For more information visit the www.blackcountrylep.co.uk website.

Pair in court after officer hit by car

A MAN has appeared in court after a policeman was hit by a car in Dudley.

Mohammed Asim, 25, of Queen's Cross, Dudley, pleaded not guilty to dangerous driving, using a car without insurance and driving a vehicle otherwise than in accordance with a licence.

Asim appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court last week alongside Naila Yasmen, 33, of Highfields Road, Saltley, also charged in connection with the incident in Wolverhampton Street at 3.30pm on August 6 in which a police sergeant was struck.

Asim and Yasmen will both appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 21. Asim was granted conditional bail, on the basis he does not contact Yasmen.

Lamp's spotlight on comedy night

A DUDLEY town pub hosts a night of stand-up comedy on Sunday.

Up-and-coming comics from across the Midlands perform at the Lamp Tavern, High Street, at 8.30pm. Entry is £2.

Shop that sold child booze keeps licence

THE owners of a Dudley shop where a 15-year-old girl was sold alcohol have been allowed to keep their licence but conditions have been set regarding training and serving procedures.

Bill's General Store on Wellington Road, Dudley, sold a bottle of WKD to the youngster, which contained four per cent alcohol.

She was part of a trading standards test purchase operation to see if she would be served by staff.

Licensee Baljass Singh was not working in the shop when the incident happened. His wife, Sukhjinder Kaur, was on the phone at the time of serving the 15-year-old and did not ask for ID, Dudley Council's licensing committee meeting heard.

At a meeting last week, Councillor Chris Elcock

questioned Mrs Kaur, asking if 'she knew the seriousness of the offence'. She replied: "I am very sorry for what happened, I didn't look properly at the girl, it was a mistake and won't happen again."

Conditions

Trading standards have requested Mrs Kaur needs to be fully licence-trained, as one of the conditions for her to be working in the store.

At the time of the incident she had only been working in the store 'a matter of weeks' and since the previous meeting in September she has attended a personal licence holder training course and is waiting for the confirmation papers to come through.

Councillor Donella Russell also requested a re-

fusal register of all people who were declined alcohol 'needed to be next to the till at all times' and advised a till prompt should be fitted to make sure every customer is checked for the 'over 25' policy.

She said: "I have a 15-year-old son and if someone had served him alcohol in this way, I would be absolutely mortified."

"We will have monthly check-ups of the store, which will make sure these conditions are continuing to be met."

Mr Singh, has managed the store since April and said it was his first time running a business. Both he and his wife, who are the only workers at Bill's General Store, told the meeting 'something like this would not happen again'.

MORE than 300 Christmas jobs are up for grabs at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Next, Primark and Argos are among the well known names recruiting staff for the busy festive season.

Currys PC World and jewellers H Samuel and T H Baker are also looking for staff over Christmas.

Merry Hill itself is also advertising for 12 new staff, five of which are permanent, for a range of roles at the centre in Brierley Hill - including Father Christmas at the centre's festive grotto. It marks the start of the busy Christmas countdown at the centre which attracts thousands of shoppers.

Shop managers and centre bosses Intu are recruiting for positions via the internet this year in a bid to fill vacancies over the coming weeks.

Fashion giant Next is looking to take on 73 members of staff for the festive season. Bosses have revealed Primark has been recruiting 25 people for temporary positions at its shop. Applications have now closed for these roles.

Recruiting

TH Baker is seeking eight temporary sales assistants at its shop and people have until tomorrow (Friday) to apply. Card and gifts retailer Paperchase is also among those recruiting. Intu are recruiting for roles including cleaners and toilet attendants.

Merry Hill marketing manager Rob Pickersgill said it is important to have staff to fill vital roles during the festive season.

"Christmas is our busiest time and we recruit extra staff to ensure we continue to deliver a seamless customer service and high standards that shoppers expect from one of the country's leading centres," he said.

President of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce Ninder Johal added: "In line with the economic prosperity that we have in the UK and the Black Country, which is the second highest performing Local Enterprise Partnership area, this is another example of retail, which was previously another struggling sector, picking up."

"One of the problems future employers experience with new graduates, students and young people is that they don't have the requisite work experience. But this is a great way for people to address that."

Visit www.intu.co.uk/merryhill/jobs

Climbers hit heights for charity



The Dudley climbers reach Bert's Peace Cairn on top of Ben Nevis, raising more than £1,500

FUNDRAISERS scaled the heights to collect £9,000 from annual climb of Ben Nevis.

A group of walkers including Dudley North MP Ian Austin took on the trek in August in memory of peace campaigner Bert Bissell and to help the Mayor's charities.

Mr Bissell, a Christian peace campaigner died aged 96 in 1998. A probation officer, who lived in Selborne Road, Dudley, he founded the Young Men's Bible Class

at Vicar Street. He first climbed Ben Nevis on VJ Day in 1945 and many times afterwards, constructing a Peace Cairn at its summit. There is a monument to Bert at Coronation Gardens opposite the council house.

The team also comprised Mr Bissell's lifelong friend Astley Blake who now runs the bible class he established, Dudley mayor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne, deputy mayor Mohammed

Hanif, councillors Dave Tyler and Keiran Casey, businessmen Damian Corfield and Shaz Saleem, and fundraisers Sarah Alliband and Stephen Rayner.

Funds raised will be split between the Hope Centre in Halesowen, The What Centre in Stourbridge, More Mascots Please in Brierley Hill, the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital and the West Midlands branch of Lupus UK, based in Coseley.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Leaders force the issue on diversity

WHAT would you say is your biggest concern about policing at the moment?

The fact they are closing down police stations in half of the Black Country? Or maybe the police chief who said we should not automatically expect the boys in blue to come running when we have been affected by something so trivial as a burglary.

Then there is the proliferation of speed cameras financed by the booming industry of "speed awareness courses", where motorists pay £90 to spend the day being patronised by tedious public-sector types to avoid getting points on their licence.

However, it appears that Home Secretary Theresa May believes there is a more pressing issue. A lack of diversity in the ranks. I must admit, I was a bit worried about that, too. All those sleepless nights agonising about diversity targets, they take their toll you know.

Mrs May says not one of the 43 forces in England and Wales looks anything like the community they serve. Now, of course, it should be a most basic requirement that the police treat everybody equally, regardless of race or religion, both when dealing with the public and in recruitment. But that should be the beginning and the end of the matter.

Surely, rigging the recruitment process to make forces a perfect cross-section of society is taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut. If we were really serious about having a police force that represents the society we live in, there would need to be far more targets. For example, the Health and Social Care Information Centre says 66.6 per cent of the UK population are overweight. So our officers had better make it burgers and chips in the canteen, then.

Also, around one in every 1,000 people has a burglary conviction. Does that mean we need a few token house-breakers? And what about the 500,000 people in England over the age of 90? Old folk should be represented too.

An alternative approach is that we could just forget all about diversity, and choose the best people for the job, regardless of their background. Controversial, I know, but it might catch on.

■ ■ ■
ANOTHER little ray of sunshine comes from those fun-loving funksters at the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. They say there is now no safe level of alcohol for middle-aged people, and even modest consumption of beer or wine for people aged 40 to 65 can increase the risk of dementia and result in an eventual memory loss.

Meanwhile, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence says there is no safe level of alcohol consumption for middle-aged people. Even modest consumption of beer or wine can lead to dementia and memory loss. I think.



Bill in his Suffolk Regiment uniform



With his Army compatriots, Bill, seen far right, was a survivor of the Japanese prisoner of war camps



Bill seen in later life as a war veteran

Hero Bill who lived a long and happy life

LEE WATTON tells the remarkable story of former Japanese prisoner of war Bill Wheale who has died aged 97

THE horrific scenes he witnessed would haunt anyone for the rest of their life – but former prisoner of war William Wheale did not let these experiences define him.

And tributes are now being paid to the great-grandfather from Tipton, who has died aged 97.

Better known as Bill, his family has paid tribute to a man with a terrific sense of humour and whose greatest pride was that all of his five grandchildren attended university.

During the Second World War, Bill's unit, the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, was taken captive when the Japanese conquered Singapore in February 1942.

He was marched inland to work on the infamous Burma Railway, a military supply route for the expanding Japanese empire.

Fortnight

And when cholera hit the prison camp where he was held, Bill was put to work burying the dead. In a single fortnight his squad were burying 40 corpses a day – and would not be fed until the grim task was completed.

Bill's son Roger, 69, said while the experiences had understandably stayed with his father for the rest of his life he had not let them define who he was.

And unlike many, he was able to tell his family some of the details of what he had witnessed and experienced during his time as a prisoner of war – although some of the worst experiences were pushed to the back of his mind.

Roger said: "He had the occasional nightmare but was able to move on. He used to share some of the things he had experienced."

"He used to talk about how the jungle was velvet black at night and the sounds of the animals were so loud it was like machinery. Then



Bill Wheale's widow Ivy and son Roger with a picture of him during the Second World War

a tiger would make a noise and all of the other animals would fall silent for a time." Roger said his father had also talked about the lack of food given to the prisoners and the methods they used to try and get more sustenance.

"He always used to say dried yak was too chewy to describe and on one occasion him and three others had captured a vulture to try to eat. They boiled it in an oil drum for three days and it was still not edible. They decided to try and use it as bait but nothing else wanted it either." Bill also spoke of his first meal after being freed in 1945. He used to say: "I ate 27 rounds of bread and butter and five courses of every meal."

Roger said he had never really known his father to worry about anything. "During his time as a prisoner of war he had seen everything – beatings, decapitations – the true harshness of life and death. I don't think any-

thing else, any other situation, was able to hit him in the same way." After enduring the ordeal of cholera, Bill's right leg became so ulcerated that amputation seemed inevitable.

His mates scrounged a handful of toilet-disinfectant crystals. The camp doctor scraped the ulcer away to the bone and covered the cavity with the crystals. When the wound went septic, a handful of maggots was applied to digest the pus. He survived but it was a close-run thing.

Bill's war ended when the crew of a submarine spotted the smoke from a fire and sent someone to investigate. It was August 29, 1945. He returned home by slow boat so did not arrive back in Britain until the end of 1945.

Bill married his wife of nearly 70 years, Ivy, now 98, in 1946 at Netherton Church. The couple had met in Priory Park, Dudley, before



Bill, left, during a wreath-laying ceremony

the war. His best man was friend Norman Sargeant.

He went to work at engineering firm Horseley Bridge and Thomas Piggott working his way up from clerk to transport manager before his retirement in the 1980s.

Bill is survived by Ivy, Roger, other son Adrian, 63, alongside five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He died at his home following complications with his heart and his funeral was held on October 15 at Gornal Wood Crematorium. Roger said: "He was very proud of the work Horseley Bridge did and was most proud that all of his grandchildren went to university. He had a sense of humour and was not above laughing at himself."

"Whatever situation he was in he never seemed to worry. He had seen it all. He will be deeply missed."

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Privatisation is to blame for ills

WITH the news that more steel workers are losing their jobs, we should be asking ourselves about the credibility of this Government's ability to create a 'Northern powerhouse'. Perhaps it was a slip of Osborne's tongue, but it seems to me that they are creating instead a 'Northern poor-house'.

The main reason that our steel industry is in decline is that steel manufacture is a highly energy-intensive activity and energy costs in Britain are the highest in Europe.

Think back, wasn't privatisation supposed to reduce energy costs? After all, we all trade in the same market. What the To-

ries who privatised it all forgot to mention was that as nationalised industries they traded as a single huge entity with Government backing, giving them immense bargaining power.

Now, as smaller private organisations they have much less influence. Instead of profits from energy created in the UK going to our exchequer, we are paying wealthy foreign shareholders to increase our living costs and to make our industries uncompetitive. How crazy is that?

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Dismay at vandalism

SOMEWHERE between Friday, October 16, and Monday, October 19, some mindless idiots smashed up the children's playground at Roberts school, Upper Gornal. The morons who did this not only stopped the children playing in the area but restricted their education.

Probably those who did this cannot read even, if they can, they couldn't care less about the heartache they have caused. One day they may have children or pay tax, then they may realise the problems and cost this has caused. I hope that someone has seen and reports you. I know children who go to the school, and they are most upset.

N D CADDICK
Coseley

No solution to power problems

THE UK is in its worst position for at least the last 10 years with the supply of our electricity. We have a minimal excess of supply over demand of less than two per cent. The industry itself says we need at least 10 times that for comfort and safety.

On BBC television we are informed that 'big' users are being 'asked' to try to use less. A more cynical person than me may call it a 'bribe'. The Government promises to keep the lights on but if we have the severe winter we have been expecting it's unlikely this can be done. People - the old, sick or very young - are at risk. People may die.

What can be done? Well we could try prayer and hope for another mild winter. We are now paying the price for lack of investment in our power producing infrastructure by successive governments of whatever political party. There are no easy solutions.

M GOUGH
Wombourne

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Town could become just like Disneyland

I ENJOYED reading B Osborne's reminiscences about the Gypsies Tent, but I would disagree with his thought that it should have been acquired by the Black Country Living Museum.

But that apart, other towns and cities also have historic buildings and sites, usually left where they are or in close proximity of the centre. York, Worcester, Stratford and Hereford are good examples. What is there in Dudley? The council obviously thinks the Black Country Living Museum is the town's saviour, according to a recent article.

Headlined: 'Town is at centre of tourist revival', it said: "Civic bosses admit

that the town has the unenviable reputation for its rows of empty shops and that they are pinning their hopes on the museum making the town a top tourist spot."

But developments are taking place at the bottom of the town and Tipton Road. Conveniently for the visitors and tourists, Castle Gate is also down there to meet their needs. Tell me, how is this going to regenerate the town centre?

It will be no more than a form of Disneyland where all whims and needs are catered for within the complex.

J B WALDRON
Stourbridge

Patriotism's worth a shot

I AGREE with Nigel Hashtilow's comment piece - We won't keep the red flag flying. Forcing children to sing the national anthem at school would be an excellent demonstration of precisely how 'liberal, tolerant and open-minded' today's UK is. But why not go further and also make payment towards the upkeep of the Royal Family optional for each and every tax payer?

That way patriotic parents would have an opportunity to show their loyalty too: by proudly 'opting in' to pay the mere 56p the Palace estimates it currently costs each hard working striver.

S ROBERTS
Halesowen

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Fashions of Mary Quant in spotlight

Wordsley M TG

THE October meeting was opened by Liz Hubbard who welcomed members and visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were signed, and treasurer Rosemary Skidmore gave a brief resume of the accounts.

The Federation Christmas Carol Service, at St Thomas's Church, Market Street, Stourbridge, is on Saturday, December 12. The next guild Lunch Club is at the Glassworks, Audnam, on November 2. Himley Country Hotel is booked for the Christmas lunch on Monday, December 7.

The chairman introduced Ruth Lowe who gave a very interesting talk about the rise to fame of Mary Quant. Mary was an evacuee and over time went to 16 different schools. Eventually she studied illustration at Goldsmith's College and opened her first boutique in the King's Road, named Bazaar. It was in her besit that Mary began making clothes for sale, buying the materials from Harrods. She opened her second boutique in 1961 followed by another in Carnaby Street.

Mary progressed to lingerie, patterned stockings and tights, perfume, make-up, with cosmetics for men as well as ladies, and accessories to compliment her clothes. In 1966 she was awarded the OBE and in 1967 was married to Alexander Plunkett-Green.

During her talk Ruth showed Quant designed clothes and samples of many items of other fashioned accessories. The vote of thanks was given by Liz Hubbard.

Falklands survivor's remarkable story



Josie Hunt, registrar Jan Burrows, Mark Newbold, Ann Rogers and Kath Turner

THE October Luncheon was presided over by deputy chairman Ann Rogers at the Himley House Hotel. Best wishes were sent to chairman Mary for her speedy recovery.

Following a three-course lunch members, speaker was Mark Newbold who had served on the Royal Yacht Britannia and survived being torpedoed in the Falklands War.

His job on the Royal Yacht was a diver and had to check several times a day that no bombs were attached. Some 146 sailors manned the yacht but when the Royals were on board a further 50 staff came as well. He travelled the world enjoying a wonderful life. But this came to an abrupt end when the Falklands were invaded 33 years

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

ago and he was seconded to the missile destroyer The Coventry. It took three weeks to reach the Falklands.

The ship was hit and had to be abandoned. They jumped 80ft in darkness into a flaming sea and had to swim to find a life raft. He was burnt and injured. They witnessed the Coventry sink - 19 died, the rest rescued by helicopter and they returned home on the QEII, 255 servicemen were killed in action but 300 have since committed suicide. His was a remarkable story.

Facing up to demonstration

Grange E TG

the various products that were being demonstrated and quite a few items were purchased. Hazel gave the vote of thanks and said how much the demonstration had been enjoyed.

Refreshments were served and the raffle was drawn

with three lucky winners. The sales table consisting of cakes was successful with all cakes being sold. The sales table for November will have a have Christmas theme.

The next meeting will be held on November 3 when the speaker will be Patricia Boyd and her talk will be entitled 'Jubilee'.

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The last round up for a dedicated Wild West fan

HE had a collection of Western memorabilia that spanned the decades and even met some of his heroes from the silver screen.

Tributes have been paid to Wild West enthusiast Michael Whittaker from Brierley Hill who has died at the age of 76.

His brother Tony Whittaker said: "He was an absolute character and one of a kind. The community will be at a loss without him."

Michael was a huge fan of old cowboy movies and his huge collection even included a signed book by a genuine Wild West legend, showman Buffalo Bill.

Michael also had a picture of himself with American actor Clayton Moore, the American former circus acrobat who played The Lone Ranger on TV and starred in dozens of Western movies in the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

His entire haul of memorabilia includes dozens of Native American figurines, cushions, tins, portraits, replica rifles and boxes of Western movie videos.

Shane

One of his most prized items was a gun believed to have been the same one used by movie star Alan Ladd in the classic 1954 Oscar winner Shane.

Tony, aged 71, added: "It was his absolute passion since being a young lad. He built up the collection and we will never part with it."

"I think he had more Indians than Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn."

Michael, aged 76, died at his home in Mount Pleasant, Brierley Hill, earlier this month.

He was born in Brierley Hill but didn't attend school regularly due to ill health.

His parents, Emily and Roland



Michael's brother Tony and nephew Steven with the enthusiast's collection



Michael Whittaker with The Lone Ranger star Clayton Moore in the 1980s

Whittaker, owned numerous pubs in the area including The Potters Arms, Stores Inn and The Nine Locks and Chain Makers.

Michael began working as a printer at Marsh and Baxter in Brierley Hill, in the 1950s before becoming a lock keeper with British Waterways. He served 25 years with them before retiring in 2004.

Following the death of Michael and Tony's mother in 2002, Michael got to travel to America. Businessman Tony said: "Michael travelled the world with me following the death of mom. We were in the Arizona desert when he saw an Indian chief making a wind chime and decided to buy it off him."

"He was incredibly well known and liked by everyone."

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Heathens hit skids as finale is abandoned

IT could prove to be Cradley Heathens last-ever home meeting – but it had to be abandoned with bosses left apologetically to fans.

The plug was pulled after 10 heats of the Knockout Cup Final First Leg against Eastbourne staged at Perry Barr Stadium last Wednesday, with the scores level at 30-30.

Officials said bad weather prior to the event had left the track in less than ideal conditions. Time then simply ran out with speedway events at the stadium not having permission to continue past 10am.

The result stood going into Saturday's second leg, which a depleted Heathens came up short with a 47-43 defeat.

"We would like to apologise for the unsatisfactory manner in which the leg was staged. It was less than ideal for such an important event," said club spokesman Andy Pobey.

Optimistic

"We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all supporters who were patient during track work and the riders for giving it there all in less than ideal circumstances."

Fans had mixed views on the club's future – though many remained optimistic it would continue.

The Heathens were plunged into crisis when chairman Nigel Pearson and club partners Chris Van Straatan and Gary Patchett recently announced they were stepping down.

Fan Paul Rose, 44, of Netherton, said: "I have been a fan ever since I was a child and remember events at Dudley Wood back in the 1990s. I am optimistic new people will come in. Also the club has to move back nearer Wolverhampton as that is more suited



John Hotchkiss and daughter Millie



Crowds at the last home meeting



Brothers Andrew and Martin Johnson

to the fan base." But Nigel Taylor, 46, of Halesowen, said he could not see anyone taking on the club.

"I just can't see it happening which is heartbreaking to be honest," he said.

"When races were held in Wolverhampton I think it was better. Events were packed out. But here in Perry



Nigel Taylor, aged 46, from Halesowen

Barr it is just not the same. I can't put my finger on it but the atmosphere has just not been there."

The Cradley Heathens have been thwarted by an on-going search for a permanent home after losing their home track in Dudley Wood two decades ago.

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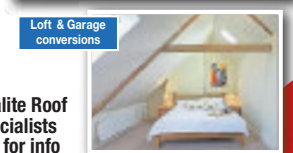
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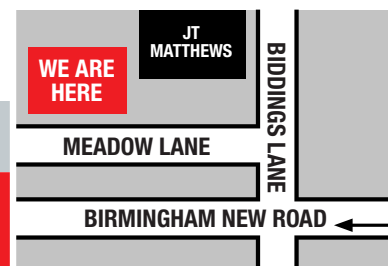
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Christmas cheers – but pub fight goes on

DEPUTY Ukip leader Paul Nuttall has lent his support to save the under-threat Seven Stars pub in Sedgley.

He visited the town came as campaigners – who were worried that the pub would close before Christmas – were told it would be open for the festive period.

Mr Nuttall, an MEP for the North West of England, was invited to the Seven Stars by Sedgley Ukip councillor and MEP Bill Etheridge.

He gave a speech to concerned residents and Ukip party members as brewers Marston's plan to sell off the pub to make way for a Morrisons supermarket.

"What we're seeing at the moment with the death of the British pub in effect is the death of a part of British history in many ways," he said.

"We have had pubs in this country for a millennium now and what we're finding at the moment is that 29 a week are closing and there's been over 10,000 close since 2007. In many ways a pub is the hub of a local community."

"When a pub closes part of a local community dies. It's something we should preserve. That's why I hope this pub stays open."

Campaigners were concerned that

the pub would close before Christmas as they were yet to put out their Christmas menus, when other Marston's pubs had them four or five weeks ago.

But Councillor Etheridge said: "I am pleased to confirm that the Seven Stars will be open for Christmas."

"This is a victory for the people who have fought long and hard to keep this pub open and I am delighted to be able to be involved."

Mr Nuttall, who has also written a leaflet entitled 'Last Orders? The Decline of the Great British pub' and is Ukip's lead on the Save the Pub campaign, now thinks the Seven Stars might be saved.

He said: "There seems to be a lot of support. From local people, the management of the pub, the people who work here want it to stay open."

"I just hope the owners, Marstons, see some sense and realise having a pub and running a pub is not just a business – it is part of a community service in many ways."

"Pubs don't just bring money into a community they also bring activity and life."

"When a pub closes that important element of a local community dies with it and I think that's bad for society as a whole."



Save the Pub co-ordinator Martin Day, Paul Nuttall and press officer to Bill Etheridge Craig Winyard

Club's first hunt of season attracts more than 200

MORE than 200 people took part in Albrighton & Woodland Hunt's first meet of the year at the stunning Enville Hall.

Around 30 hounds and 100 horses trekked across 30 miles of countryside on Sunday.

Julian Hill, club secretary for eight years, said it had been a wonderful event blessed by perfect autumnal weather.

"It was a fantastic sound when the hounds started to gather," he said. "It went really well, the weather was the right conditions and the rain had nicely softened the ground."

"All our hunts are committed within the law. We usually meet about twice a week to prepare, and it is a good social scene as well as being a sport."

The club has around 150 subscribers, people who ride regularly with them, and 400 members in total.

The autumn hunting season starts in late August, depending on the harvest, when new and young hounds are prepared and educated ready for the opening meet.

During the main season, hounds meet twice or three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday until the close of the season in mid-March. Autumn hunts take in part in Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire.

Mr Hill said: "It is becoming increasingly popular and the regular turnout of people gains a lot of interest."

"We welcome everyone to attend and join us if they wish. They can contact us via our website for more information."

Visit www.aandwh.co.uk for details.

Tributes as man struck by crippling illness dies

A GRANDFATHER struck down with Motor Neurone Disease has died – just seven months since diagnosing himself after watching the Stephen Hawking biopic.

Paul Whyley only began to fear he had the same debilitating condition as Professor Hawking when he watched the Oscar-winning movie The Theory of Everything at the cinema.

Mr Whyley's form of the disease was rapid and progressive, and left him 'a prisoner in his own body'.

Jayne, the grandfather-of-four's devastated wife of 40 years, who was forced to leave her job to care for her husband, paid tribute to her 'rock'.

Minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day she witnessed the decline in his condition, which culminated in his death on October 17.

Mrs Whyley, of Hagley, near Stourbridge, said she had been astonished by the outpouring of support from friends and family after her husband's passing.

She praised the stoic way in which he dealt with the crippling illness, which – as he said himself in July – left him 'like a newborn baby'.



Paul Whyley

blind fitter Mr Whyley's worst fears were confirmed, and his form of the disease was particularly fast moving.

He was told he had between two to five years to live after diagnosis.

Father-of-two Mr Whyley died with his wife and daughter Lauren at his bedside.

His eldest daughter Heather, 36, flew back from Colombia the day after her father's death.

She had earlier delayed moving to South America in order to spend time with her dad, but eventually flew out on October 7 – only to be called home 10 days later.

She said: "I don't know how he kept his spirits up, but he always had a fantastic sense of humour and was so funny. He was overwhelmed by people's support and didn't understand why so many people wanted to help him."

Mr Whyley's funeral was taking place yesterday (Wednesday) at Stourbridge Crematorium.

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Beacon launches service to offer optometry expertise

THE region's leading sight loss charity has launched a new social enterprise optometry service.

Beacon Opticians+ offers a full NHS eye testing and spectacle dispensing service in state-of-the-art facilities within the charity's Sedgley headquarters. Notable entrepreneur Stephen Fear performed the formal opening of the centre.

By Simon Penfold

The move marks a significant step in the development of Beacon's wide range of support for people across the West Midlands.

Arwyn Jones, chief executive of Beacon said: "Opening an optometry practice was an obvious extension to our already comprehensive eye health services.

"This is a fully-functional opticians, providing exactly the same service as high street businesses, and is open to everyone, with the added benefit that all income from the practice supports our services in the community and further eye health campaigns.

"To the best of our knowledge this is the first-ever opticians in the UK trading as a social enterprise, returning its profits back to charity.

"Beacon Opticians+ is also able to offer specialist testing of people with sight loss conditions, dementia or learning difficulties, in

an environment specifically adapted for those with these needs. Social Enterprises are businesses with a clear social and/or environmental benefit and Beacon has already been awarded the Social Enterprise Mark in recognition of the valuable impact of our activities."

In addition to eye tests, Beacon Opticians+ stocks a range of new spectacle frames and sunglasses.

The service is open five days a week (Monday 9-5; Wednesday 9-5; Thursday 1-8; Friday 9-5; Saturday 9-3) and appointments can be booked by emailing optom1@beaconvision.org or calling 01902 886794.

The charity also operates a range of charity shops across the West Midlands, which deliver much-needed funds.

To find out more visit www.beaconvision.org



Students Georgia Hill, Jemma King, Emily Smith and William Danks on the roll of honour

Honour roll for students who achieve

A SCHOOL has held its first ever Roll of Honour event honouring outstanding students.

The Dormston School in Mill Street, Sedgley, celebrated four pupils from last year's Year 11 who have had their names engraved on a new roll of honour board.

The winners were Emily Smith, Gemma King, William Danks and Georgia Hill.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has backed the initiative at the school that was taken out of special measures last year, a year after new headteacher Ben Stinchman vowed to drive up standards.

The Labour MP said: "I think it's brilliant that Dormston is recognising pupils who have made education their own priority in this way."

He added: "We need to make education and skills our number one priority in Dudley."

Youth club for village on agenda

A YOUTH club could be opened in Gornal in a bid to ease problems with anti-social behaviour.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Councillor Dave Branwood are to meet residents in Gornal to discuss the scheme.

Volunteers from the Gornal Youthie group have launched plans for a club aimed to occupy 12-to-16-year-olds from the area.

They hope it will provide youngsters with a safe place to meet.

Councillor Dave Branwood has been working to tackle anti-social behaviour in the village.

He said: "I know that anti-social behaviour is a big concern for Gornal residents. We're now working together to do everything we can to help local volunteers reopen a youth club in the area so we can keep kids occupied constructively and off the streets."

Sands like a good name

A NEW road for a housing development in Lower Gornal will have a name inspired by the the sandstone quarries for which the area is known.

Developer Eden Properties propose that the new street is called Feldspar Gardens, as sandstone contain the minerals feldspar and quartz.

The proposal is due to be approved by Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services on Thursday, November 5.

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D-Day heroes back at beaches 70 years on



Arthur Jones, 89, of Pendeford, Albert Gallier, 96, Bridgnorth, Albert Mobbs, 92, Perton, George Waterfield, 91, Lower Gornal, George Griffiths, 90, West Bromwich, Horris Smith, 91, Netherton, and Les Marsh, 91, Halesowen

THEIR heroics will be remembered for generations to come. Now D-Day veterans have been taken back to Normandy for the first time since 1944.

It all became possible through campaigner Joy Widdowson, who saw a piece in The Legion magazine around six months ago, calling upon all Second World War veterans to take part in a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to return to Normandy.

Ten veterans from Bridgnorth, Gornal and Wolverhampton, along with their relatives, embarked on the five-day trip. The coach went on to pick up another 30 veterans from Bristol before heading to Portsmouth dock to get the ferry.

The group of veterans paid their respects to the fallen at many of the cemeteries, including Ranville and Ba-



Horris Smith, 91, of Netherton, and Les Marsh, 91, of Halesowen

yeux. They were also taken to key sites such as Pegasus Bridge, Cafe Gondree, Point Du Hoc, Sword, June, Gold and Omaha beaches and Royal Marines Memorial, where they laid a reef.

Veterans like Albert Mobbs said they wanted to stand on the beaches again while they still had the chance. The 92-year-old, of Perton, was part of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and was part of the

Tank Brigade 6th Guard, serving from 1941 to 1947.

He said: "The trip exceeded every expectation I had. It brought back some wonderful memories and it's a trip I would definitely encourage every veteran to go on."

The trip was run by Arena Travel and part-funded by Libor fines paid by banks that have rigged interest rates.

Mrs Widdowson, of Pendeford, has been involved in the Royal British Legion for 10 years. She said: "I was proud of every single one of those men getting on that coach."

"I'm happy to have been part of the process in making this happen."

Mark Butcher, 47, from Penn, said his father-in-law, George Waterfield, from Gornal, aged 91, who served on the Royal Corps of Signals, had wanted to return to Normandy for years.

He said: "I'm extremely proud of George."



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Let public have a say over budgets



WOULD you be willing to pay more council tax?

This is what some people like to call a Q&TWTAIN (question to which the answer is 'no').

But it's a question Mike Bird is prepared to spend £250,000 asking.

Walsall Council, like everyone else, is making more cuts. And half a decade in to austerity budgets, many local authorities would like to be able to put council tax up.

But they've had their hands tied by rules that force them to hold a referendum if they want to increase council tax by more than two per cent.

In the early years of George Osborne's austerity councils also had the incentive of funding the equivalent of a modest rise if they left the precept alone.

Risk

Walsall will put up its council tax by just under the two per cent threshold next year, avoiding the need to ask the question and go to the enormous expense of the referendum, not to mention run the considerable risk of being given the biggest 'no' since the residents of the Bernard Matthews farm were asked if they enjoyed Christmas.

But the year after that Walsall's leader Councillor Bird is prepared to put it to the vote, if only because it will mean people understand the implications of refusing to cough up the extra money - the services that will be lost or scaled back.

A referendum sounds like giving



Walsall Council leader Mike Bird

local people the ultimate power but part of me does have to wonder, isn't this what we elect the councillors to decide?

If a political party in charge of a local authority treats the council tax as an inexhaustible money tree, it can be voted out come election time. A pledge to freeze or even reduce it should be a manifesto issue.

Given that Labour and the Tories are keen on devolution of power and responsibility to combined authorities and town halls, maybe it is time to give them back control over their own budgets and let the public have the say in the local elections.

It wouldn't cost a penny more. And it beats spending a cool quarter of a million to answer a question everyone already knows the answer to.

After a fantastic few years, this is

my last column before I move on to a new role elsewhere. I'd like to thank everyone who has ever read this, everyone who has ever written to me, tweeted me, commented on the column online and shown me what a rich mix of opinion and debate exists.

I've interviewed the last three Prime Ministers, been told off by John Prescott, taken tea with Tony Benn, watched Norman Tebbit look up the definition of marriage, had a stand-up row with Michael Gove's staff over an unexpected question, and even had careers advice from William Hague.

This is what he said: "It's important with politics, as it is with everything else, that you go out while you're still enjoying it before people wonder why you haven't gone away before."

So this is me, enjoying it, going away and saying thanks.

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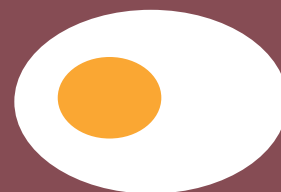
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Provoking Thought



Dudley Sixth
for A levels

Holy Trinity in line for revamp

A GRADE II listed Black Country church is putting plans forward for a six figure revamp which will see it modernised for the community. Holy Trinity Church, in Old Hill, near Cradley Heath, is looking to develop and create new seating, flooring, storage and office space, costing in the region of at least £100,000.

Church leaders are inviting people along to their Vision Day on Sunday November 15 at 10.45am, which will lay out the Parochial Church Council's plans for the next year and encourage family members to support and contribute towards the project.

Churchwarden Rachel Ford, 55, said: "I'm very excited to be in the consultation stages and looking forward to updating the local community and to hear their thoughts of our plans at the meeting."

Time up for old clock tower



The clock at the Moor Centre in Brierley Hill High Street, which will be replaced

TIME has been standing still in Brierley Hill – but not for much longer with plans to demolish and replace the faulty town clock tower as part of a £100,000 raft of improvements.

The 40ft landmark has stood outside the Moor Centre since 1998 but due to a fault with the electrical supply it has never worked properly leaving each of the four faces showing a different time.

The owners of the Moor Centre have now revealed they plan to start work dismantling the tower before the end of the year.

As well as installing a new four-faced clock, new benches and signs will be installed as part of a revamp of the main square.

Matt Pegg, asset manager of London & Cambridge Properties (LCP), which manages the centre on behalf of owners Evolve

600 sign petition for lights at junction

MORE than 600 people have signed a petition calling for new traffic lights to be fitted at a danger junction on Birmingham New Road.

The petition, led by resident Gordon Laird and backed by Dudley north MP Ian Austin and Councillor Margaret Aston, has been submitted to Dudley Council.

There have been a number of crashes at the site, near the old King Arthur pub at the junction with Priory Road. On September 29, Craig Griffiths, aged 26 from Netherton, was killed after his car collided with a lamppost there.

The campaigners are now calling for a new set of lights to be built on the junction, which leads to Woodcroft Avenue, Wrens Avenue and Silverthorne Avenue.

Mr Austin said: "I think Gordon has done a brilliant job raising this petition and shows the genuine concern residents have about driving out of their estate and onto the dual carriageway."

Borough among poorest, but residents happy, says study

THE Dudley borough is among the least prosperous areas in the UK – but according to a report its residents are the happiest in the Black Country.

The borough has not fared as badly as its near neighbours in Wolverhampton and Sandwell in the study by thinktank The Legatum Institute

Wolverhampton was ranked the least prosperous place to live in the same report – and Sandwell was the second least prosperous.

A leading councillor dismissed the report for being out of touch with life in Dudley borough, which was ranked the 39th least prosperous area in the UK.

Walsall was 29th while Wolverhampton and Sandwell hit numbers one and two on the list respectively.

The Dudley borough was, however, found to have the happiest residents in the Black Country. Dudley Council's opposition Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley dismissed the findings.

He said: "These surveys are probably done in

some office somewhere – to be honest you can take them with a pinch of salt.

"Dudley people are proud of their heritage and excited about the future."

For its inaugural Geography of Prosperity index, The Legatum Institute compared the prosperity of 170 areas across Britain.

It combined the Eurostat's data on gross domestic product for UK local areas and the ONS's well-being statistics.

Dudley ranked 104th for life satisfaction, with a rating of 7.55, and 154th for GDP, with an average salary of £13,795.

Church hall fire deliberate

FIRE chiefs have confirmed a blaze that destroyed a church hall in Rowley Regis was arson.

The building next to Knowle Methodist Church in Dudley Road suffered severe smoke damage following last Friday's fire. Three fire crews attended. Officers confirmed it was started deliberately.

The arsonists are thought to have got in through windows on the roof of the building.

The blaze put the church out of action temporarily. Services due to be held at the weekend were cancelled.

Reverend Caroline Wickens, superintendent minister for the Dudley and Netherton circuit, said: "For something like this to happen is a real blow."

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Carnage – aftermath of the Heinkel plane which plummeted into houses in Warley



Hero – Sgt Henry Erskin Bodien nicknamed 'Snowy'



A formation of planes belonging to the KG55 Luftwaffe bomber unit



Police sift through wreckage of the Hales Lane plane crash



Bristnall Hall Senior School for Boys with a barrage balloon

When the bombs rained down on Brum and the Black Country

THE sirens wailed as nine German bombers droned overhead before a huge fireball lit up the sky as a gas works was hit. The war had arrived in the Black Country.

It was August 1940 when the first bombs were dropped on the region, with Smethwick being the first to suffer from an attack by Hitler's Luftwaffe.

By the time it was over, dozens lay dead and homes and businesses were razed to the ground.

The Heinkel bombers returned later in November to inflict major damage for the first time, the strike on the Corporation Gas Works in Rabone Lane was a mere scratch compared to what was to come.

Bombs had begun to rain down on Birmingham for the first time three months earlier, with factories in Castle Bromwich among the first targets successfully hit.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Richard Guttridge

At this point, the Black Country was still managing to escape largely unharmed, but it was widely accepted that it was only a matter of time.

Birmingham and the Black Country were among the most important areas of the country strategically and, before long, factories in Smethwick, Oldbury and West Bromwich, crucial to the war effort, would come to the notice of the German military.

The pummeling the Midlands took at the hands of the Germans during the Second World War has been documented by Steve Richards in his new book *The Luftwaffe Over Brum*.

His mother lived in Warley at the time and would tell tales during his childhood of German planes crashing nearby and pilots parachuting onto the roofs of neighbouring homes in what was a terrifying time.

Her recollections inspired him to delve deeper into the West Midlands air raids. The book details the worst bombings to hit the region, the thinking behind the attacks and the effect on ordinary people trying to survive amid the chaos.

Despite being blind Mr Richards, aged 68, has put the book together over three and a half years with the assistance of friends. His mother Doris Bannister was just 13 when the bombing began.

Mr Richards believes his mother was perhaps too young to truly recognise the horrors of war that was going on around her, though the loud wailing of the air raid sirens never left her.

He said: "She would look over towards Birmingham and the sky was aglow with flames."

"She always used to say when she heard an air raid siren on a film or anything, her stomach would turn over."

If there were any doubts that the bombers would return after that first major attack, they were well and truly quashed just

24 hours later when the Black Country came under heavy fire.

In December, the bombers returned with force. They carried out attacks in two phases. In Smethwick, the W&T Avery factory's gun carriage department and Samuel Smith Beehive foundry were hit by parachute mines.

Sgt Henry Erskin Bodien and his 19-year-old New Zealand air-gunner Dudley Jonas flying the RAF plane were among the allied men protecting the Black Country.

One of the aircraft found its mark and the enemy plane burst into flames and hurtled into a descent. With two of the German crew dead, the two remaining German fighters took to their parachutes.

The bombings lasted until July 1942 when, apart from a lone bomber on a solo mission a year later, the skies above the Black Country and Birmingham went quiet. The Luftwaffe's assault had cost the lives of more than 150 people in the Black Country alone. The book is available from www.birmingham-air-raids.co.uk or Amazon.

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Lost & Found

My smile was stolen in a road crash, but restored by cosmetic dentistry.

SHE loves fashion – particularly shoes, is the manager of a thriving internet sales company and a working mum with "two full-time boys."

For Esther Nash, life is forever gaining momentum as she juggles relationships with musician husband Adam, her lads, Noah, aged six and four-year-old Hudson. Then, of course, there are the exacting demands of work . . . and play.

Three times a week she can be found tuning up at fitness boot camp sessions, neatly sandwiched between the odd run, eventing meetings, rehearsals with a choir, helping out at her local church, playing taxi for the kids' karate and swimming clubs, and all while endeavouring to remain calm and glamorous.

Essential ingredients as she faces the world: Lip gloss and just enough make-up in her handbag for a two-minute restoration.

The 28-year-old admits life is a whirlwind full of unforeseen challenges in both business and motherhood. Her coping mechanism (she's already running late for this interview after Hudson's sudden call of nature) is focussing on the good things and to keep smiling.

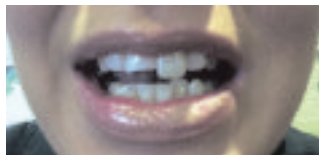
But the gleaming smile and infectious laughter that so defines this 'supermum' was stolen in a moment after a head-on smash with a bus.

"It was just another day. I'm always busy, but fortunately I hadn't got the boys with me," she recalls.

"Like all accidents it all happened so quickly. I was in a road where suddenly the

Esther Nash – all smiles once again after her ordeal

Below: Crash damage – Esther's broken smile



lanes become very narrow. On that day a delivery van as parked at the narrowest point. The road in front of me appeared clear, but as soon as I'd begun the manoeuvre a bus was coming right towards me.

"I thought I'd have enough room to continue and miss it, but I didn't," she adds.

Trapped and hysterical in her mangled Nissan she was aware a number of pedestrians shouting 'get out, get out.'

"The air bag had gone off and there was this haze in the car that looked like smoke.

I think they thought it was on fire, but I was more concerned with the strange crunching in my mouth.

"In the middle of this chaos – by now the ambulance and police had arrived – I looked in the mirror and my mouth was full of blood. My smile was ruined with one of my upper front teeth sheered.

"I was mortified, hurt everywhere as I'd bounced back and forth off the bus and the parked van, but it was my damaged smile that bothered me most. It's a big part of who I am," she recalls.

Monitored by paramedics at the scene in a neighbour's home for two hours, she was eventually taken to hospital by the ambulance crew.

"My foot was damaged and I had bruises all over, but I was devastated by my shattered front tooth. How can a single tooth cause so much grief?

"I was wearing a large flower ring – costume jewellery – and it was broken in two. They

think the impact threw my hand off the steering wheel and my tooth connected with the ring.

"Looking back it had a huge impact on me. I needed it fixed, like yesterday, and vowed not to go out until it was repaired. My confidence just evaporated and I didn't want to leave the house," she adds.

Following emergency treatment on her tooth, Esther sought help from North Street Dental and Implant Clinic in Dudley, where resident dentist Polly Mineva DMD GDC 188090, took on the case.

"I just wanted things to be normal, but I had so much sensitivity with the tooth I had to wait a fortnight for things to calm down. Polly was so supportive and set about fitting a porcelain veneer, but it meant my tooth initially looked worse after the prep work. I just broke down in the waiting room on the way out.

"Everyone was so kind," she says.

Pulled out all the stops

Practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 adds: "The psychological and emotional association with our teeth is very strong and Esther's response was a common one. She was distraught and we pulled out all the stops to complete the dental work within ten days.

"The lab people were amazing, with Esther having an appointment to see them to ensure an excellent colour match."

Adds Esther: "I couldn't have asked for more. My teeth have at least three gradients of colour and the match is perfect. I can't thank the team enough."

Polly, who has a special interest in this field of dentistry, working in Michigan, USA, at a prestigious dental cosmetics centre before joining the North Street team, says: "Cases like Esther's makes cosmetic dentistry so worthwhile. It's truly incredible what can be achieved and how natural veneers can look. She was so traumatised by what had happened and we did everything we could to turn things around for her very quickly."

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Harry Enfield & Paul Whitehouse: Legends!
Sat at 7pm, Sun at 7.30pm, £32.50 - £41.25
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Josh Widdicombe
Sun at 8pm, £16.50
Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

TALKS

House Steward: The Pre-Raphaelites: Sex Drugs And Poetry (Over 18s)
Fri at 7pm, £8 - £12
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Steve Backshall's Wild World
Sun at 11.30am - 1pm, 3pm - 4.30pm, £18
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Gino D'Acampo
Tue at 8pm, £24.50
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

CLUBBING

Wolverhampton Soul Night
Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

OTHER EVENTS

Crafts For Christmas, Stitching, Sewing & Hobbies And Art Materials Live
Thu at 9.30am - 5.30pm, The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Brave new take on classic novel

WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre welcomes the world premiere of the new stage adaptation of Aldous Huxley's classic novel, *Brave New World*, from Monday to Saturday.

Featuring the offspring of theatrical royalty, the cast includes Sophie Ward, daughter of Simon, and William Postlethwaite, son of Pete. It is directed by James Dacre, whose father Paul is editor of the Daily Mail. Sophie wed Korean-American writer Rena Brannan in a well-publicised ceremony in 2000, before same-sex civil partnerships were legalised in Britain and is a campaigner for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. If some say her sexuality defines her, she says: "I don't have a problem with that."

Sophie plays 'the controller', in the original novel a man. Feminist playwright Dawn King says she wanted to increase the gender equality.

As someone not afraid to stand up for what she believes, does Sophie think that's why she was picked to play the part? "Maybe I am known for being outspoken but I have often played quite strong parts on TV and in theatre," says Sophie. "There is a real balance with the character. She's so powerful but because of Dawn's clever writing you see that underneath it's difficult being in charge of things, it comes with its own price. You see her own doubts, her own sacrifices."

Written in 1931, the ground-breaking novel was ranked fifth on the list



Sophie Ward, right, stars in *Brave New World* at Wolverhampton Grand

of the 100 Best English Language Novels of the 20th Century. The story is set in 2540 and depicts a world where humans are genetically engineered. Family and emotional ties do not exist.

Dawn King's script is witty and forthright, based on a novel that is

more than 80 years old. But Sophie says it is still relevant: "Genetic engineering is very much on the front pages. The commercialisation of everyday life, the assisted dying debate and the legalisation of drugs – all these things were at the forefront of the novel."



'Most romantic thing I've ever done'

So now Paddy is the daddy

TV star and comic Paddy McGuinness will bring his *Daddy McGuinness* show to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on tonight (Thu) and tomorrow.

The star of ITV's *Take Me Out* returned to his performing roots in September with his first stand-up comedy tour since 2011.

McGuinness, who has enjoyed numerous sell-out tours and best-selling DVDs, said: "I'm really looking forward to being back on tour – I've missed it."

"I've got a great new show planned, *Daddy McGuinness*. Amongst many other things, I'll be sharing several stories about becoming a first-time dad and parenthood."

The host of dating show *Take Me Out* says the most romantic moment of his life was proposing to his wife, Christine Martin, on a Christmas Eve.

"That was definitely the most romantic thing I've ever done," he says.

He doesn't normally go in for grand gestures, however. "Well, I think the best thing to do is not put yourself under too much pressure. A lot of blokes will put a lot of pressure on themselves to do something amazing."

"There's no point. If you already have the girlfriend, you are already over the line."

"It's the smaller things that work, like running a bath, cooking a meal or renting a nice film. If you start bursting through the front doors on a white stallion with a rose in your teeth she'll burst herself laughing."

Rock opera and a savage drama

TWO major theatre productions come to Birmingham next week.

Birmingham Hippodrome hosts the new theatre version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, following the recent stadium-touring revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's musical tale of the Messiah and Judas. Glenn Carter takes the title role in the rock opera with Tim Rogers as Judas Iscariot and X Factor finalist Rachel Adedeji as Mary Magdalene.

William Golding's disturbing tale of stranded schoolboys going on a desert island, *Lord of the Flies*, has been adapted by Nigel Williams and the Regent's Park production explodes onto the stage at Birmingham Rep.

Guitar heroes and a pop idol returns

POP gig of the week has to be the return of singer and actor Will Young, back in the lime-light with his latest single *Joy* and new album *85% Proof*.

In concert at the Symphony Hall on Wednesday, the 36-year-old former Pop Idol winner is proof that a solid career can come from talent show TV.

Watch out for folk star Seth Lakeman at the Robin 2 in Bilston tonight (Thu); ex-Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett at Symphony Hall tomorrow; guitar great Joe Satriani at Birmingham Town Hall on Monday. Or spend Halloween at the Robin 2 with BlackNBlack, the Swiss girl band tribute to AC/DC.

Triple bill of dance as Rambert roll in

THREE pieces of dance — one featuring the music of the Rolling Stones — will feature at Birmingham Rep during a four-day visit by acclaimed dance company Rambert, that began last night (Wed).

Rambert will bring the rock 'n roll swagger of the Rolling Stones to life in *Rooster*, a sharp-suited, snake-hipped celebration of the swinging sixties.

The production will also feature *Frames*, an inventive piece by British dance's hottest property Alexander Whitley, and *Transfigured Night*, a dramatic love story by two-time Olivier-award winning choreographer Kim Brandstrup.

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Recording a short radio play on the BBC headquarters tour at Broadcasting House



The sheer size of Kew Gardens was amazing



Tower Bridge with Tower Hotel nearby



Michael Watson heads up the Jersey Boys cast

Oh, what a night as Jersey Boys sets stage for top weekend away

I'LL be working my way back' to see the phenomenal Jersey Boys again when the musical comes to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre early next year.

But for now I'll have to content myself with some great memories of my action-packed Parry's International coach break to the capital, which included tickets for the West End show, a visit to Kew Gardens, afternoon tea at a top London hotel and a tour of the BBC's headquarters at Broadcasting House.

Jersey Boys is based around the lives of 60s pop legends Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Their songs are the classics we all grew up with, including Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like a Man, Rag Doll, Let's Hang On, Bye Bye Baby, Working My Way Back to You and many, many others.

By Karen Knowles

We arrived at Piccadilly Theatre in our posh frocks, having just enjoyed afternoon tea at The Waldorf, and settled down to enjoy the show with drinks delivered to our seats through a handy service called Ordertorium. What a great way to beat the queues to the bar. You can either download the free app and place an order on your phone or wave a menu in the air and someone will come and serve you.

Legendary

Michael Watson has the perfect voice and stature to play Frankie and heads a strong cast. No wonder it has drawn stars like The Hoff and even the legendary Valli himself to see the show. It's a belter.

It had been a busy day. First stop was the world-famous Kew Gardens. Being

on a coach was a bonus because we were dropped at the door which was good because it was raining heavily. Kew is a world leader in plant science and conservation and the sheer size of the place was amazing.

It was too wet for the treetop walkway. Instead we toured the vast site on the Kew Explorer land train.

Our accommodation during our two-night stay was at Tower Hotel which overlooks Tower Bridge from where there are great views of The Shard and the Tower of London and only a two-minute stroll from St Katharine Docks where there are dozens of restaurants, pubs and cafes.

If you like your breaks to be stress-free, coach trips are just the ticket. On our journey from Tower Bridge that morning we were caught up in a jam but the driver's local knowledge meant he did a clever detour and still arrived on schedule. Our final

stop was a tour of the BBC. The sun was shining and I really enjoyed the 45-minute journey through the City and into the West End. The seats were comfortable and panoramic windows provided bird's eye views. Being so high up, it was probably the most I have ever seen of London in one go. We saw where the Great Fire of London started, the Millennium Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral.

The BBC tour includes plenty of fun, hands-on stuff, including the chance to read the news and make a short radio play, complete with sound effects. Through floor length windows we watched journalists at work in the state-of-the-art newsroom and visited The One Show studio, taking it in turns to sit on the famous sofa. We even spotted the odd celebrity, including Fiona Bruce filming outside. It was a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of a much-loved British institution.

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Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

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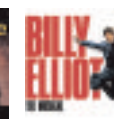
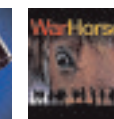
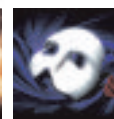
For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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CHOICE



Ian McKellen

The Dresser
(BBC2, 9pm)

Drama based on Ronald Harwood's successful play, about the working relationship between an ageing actor and head of a touring Shakespearean theatre company, and his personal assistant. Set against the backdrop of a production of Lear and the Fool during the Blitz, the leading light's work and reputation begin to deteriorate as the situation reaches crisis point. Starring Anthony Hopkins, Emily Watson, Ian McKellen, Sarah Lancashire, Vanessa Kirby, Edward Fox, Tom Brooke, John Ashton, Ian Conningham, Annalisa Rossi, Helen Bradbury, Carl Sanderson, Matthew Cottle and Martin Chamberlain.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** (R) **12.00 BBC News.** Weather. **12.10 Football Focus.** **12.50 Saturday Sportsday.** **1.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.30 World Gymnastics Championships.** Live coverage of day nine of the competition from SSE Hydro Arena in Glasgow. **4.15 Final Score.** **5.25 BBC News.** **5.35 Regional Programme.** **5.45 Pointless Celebrities.**

6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman present this year's Halloween special, as the 11 remaining couples dress up in spooky attire for another ballroom battle. After another procebrality pair was knocked out last week, judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are the ones to impress, and the dancers must give their best performances in a bid to get their names near the top of the leaderboard. The two lowest scoring couples will perform again in the dance off, and another pair will be leaving on tomorrow night's show.

8.15 Doctor Who. The Zygons have been living in secret on Earth, unknown and unseen – until now. When Osgood is kidnapped by a rogue gang of the shapeshifting aliens, the Doctor, Clara and UNIT must scatter across the world in a bid to set her free. But will they reach her in time, and can they stop an uprising before it's too late?

9.05 Casualty. An unlikely patient arrives in the Emergency Department. Jacob learns that there is no justice, Cal falls in love with his estranged daughter and Connie asks for a report on Alicia.

9.55 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers are revealed.

10.05 BBC News: Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Liverpool at Stamford Bridge and Crystal Palace v Manchester United at Selhurst Park; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Apprentice. The contestants are instructed to tap into one of the UK's biggest markets. (R)

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55 BBC News.**

BBC2

8.05 Film: The Man in the White Suit. (1951) **9.30 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **10.30 Animal Park.** (R) **11.00 BBC News: SOS.** (R) **11.30 Animal SOS.** (R) **12.00 My Life on a Plate.** (R) **12.45 My Life on a Plate.** (R) **1.30 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip.** (R) **2.00 Comedians Talking Pictures.** **2.35 Film: Lucky Jim.** (1957) Comedy, starring Ian Carmichael. **4.10 Film: Whisky Galore!** (1949) **5.30 Escape to the Continent.** (R)

6.30 Flog It! Michael Baggot and Will Axon uncover valuable items in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, including a ghoulish object that could put bidders off at auction. Paul Martin visits Chatsworth House where he examines the life of Georgiana, the notorious fifth Duchess of Devonshire. (R)

7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo experiences first-hand Italy's "need for speed" in a state-of-the-art Maserati sports car, and discovers how the leaning tower of Pisa was rescued from near collapse. In Carrara, he finds out how the marble used by Michelangelo is still being quarried and is invited to chip away at a contemporary sculpture. Moving on to Bologna, the former politician embarks on a doomed search for spaghetti bolognese before being taught how to prepare a tagliatelle al ragu. Finally, he lets the wind rush through his hair on a high-speed boat trip across Lake Garda. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot for a big parade and plumps for a ram, but catching a suitable candidate proves easier said than done. (R)

9.00 Film: The Dresser. Drama based on Ronald Harwood's successful play, about the working relationship between an ageing actor and head of a touring Shakespearean theatre company, and his personal assistant. Set against the backdrop of a production of Lear and the Fool during the Blitz, the leading light's work and reputation begin to deteriorate as the situation reaches crisis point. Starring Anthony Hopkins and Ian McKellen.

10.45 Formula 1: Mexico Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights.

12.00 Film: Fright Night. (2011) **1.50 Film: Horror Express.** (1972) **3.15 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockout Street. **6.10 Bottom Knockout Street.** (R) **6.25 Bottom Knockout Street.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.05 Signed Stories.** (R) **7.10 Sooty.** (R) **7.25 Super 4.** (R) **7.40 Adventure Time.** **8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** **8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **9.00 Jessie.** **9.25 Murder: She Wrote.** (R) **10.10 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **11.15 ITV News: Weather.** **11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.30 Downtown Abbey.** (R) **1.30 The X Factor.** (R) **3.00 Rugby World Cup.** Coverage of the final (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.45 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.50 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as Good Morning Britain's Ranvir Singh, journalist John Sergeant, ex-rugby international Ugo Monye and TV presenter Mariella Frostrup pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the first of this year's live shows. The 12 remaining acts compete for the chance to make it through to the live final later this year, hoping to impress the judges enough to stay on the show. Simon Cowell has the Overs, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini the Groups, Nick Grimshaw the Boys, and Rita Ora the Girls. However, the standard is high, which is sure to cause drama and disagreements among the judges, and tomorrow's show will see the first act eliminated after a sing-off.

10.25 The Jonathan Ross Show. The hosts welcomes guests Priscilla Presley, Elvis Costello and Rob Beckett for another no-holds-barred bout of questioning, and there is music by Caravan Palace.

11.30 ITV News: Weather.

11.45 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from the final, which took place at Twickenham, as the successors to New Zealand were crowned.

12.45 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.

3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.05 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.30 Ben Nevis Braveheart Triathlon.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Ascot. Wetherby and Down Royal. **3.55 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day in Perth, and Craig's turn to throw a dinner party. He hopes that his land and sea menu will see him score highly, but Daniel and Jenna's quarrel continues. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud revisits an experimental amphibious house built on a small island on the Thames in Buckinghamshire, to discover how well the unique floating house performs. (R)

8.00 How to Be Queen: 63 Years and Counting. A panel of leading royal watchers assesses how the Queen has retained her place in the nation's affections, after 63 years on the throne, which have made her the longest-serving British monarch in history. The programme explores what she has learned from her family's mistakes, revealing the top 10 secrets of Her Majesty's success and how to survive on the British throne.

9.30 It Was Alright in the 1970s. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at TV shows from past decades, based on the theme of living dangerously in the 1970s. Last in the series.

10.30 FT Friday. Chris Evans welcomes guests including Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Duran Duran to his lively entertainment show. Plus, music by Eagles of Death Metal and Foals. (R)

11.35 Set of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Team captains John Richardson and Sean Lock are joined by Johnny Vegas and Romesh Ranganathan, while Josie Long is in Dictionary Corner. (R)

12.40 Fargo. (R) **1.50 Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** (R) **2.50 Hollyoaks.** (R) **5.00 River Cottage Bites.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **9.30 The Saturday Show.** **11.30 The Gadget Show.** (R) **12.30 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **1.25 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **2.25 Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge.** (2000) An orphan staying at his great-uncle's haunted house finds himself caught up in the middle of events from the past. Supernatural family drama, starring Jon Newman and George Cole. **4.10 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.** **4.40 Now That's Funny!** **5.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R)

6.30 Film: Superman III. (1983) The Man of Steel battles an evil tycoon, who has recruited a computer genius to aid his schemes for world domination. Together the villains hatch a plan to dispose of Superman once and for all – but instead of killing the superhero, he accidentally unveils his dark side. Comic-book adventure sequel, starring Christopher Reeve, Richard Pryor, Robert Vaughn and Margot Kidder. Edited for language.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches, including Birmingham City v Wolverhampton Wanderers at St Andrew's and Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough, both of which took place in the Championship. There is also action from Walsall v Gillingham in League One, and Leyton Orient v Accrington Stanley in League Two.

10.25 Film: The Cabin in the Woods. (2012) Five students in a remote house are attacked by supernatural forces, but discover that something far stranger is at work. Horror, starring Kristen Connolly and Chris Hemsworth.

12.15 Film: White Noise. (2005) A man becomes obsessed with the notion that the spirit of his dead wife can contact him via electronic equipment. Supernatural thriller, starring Michael Keaton and Chandra West. **1.55 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 Gift of Life.** Cystic fibrosis sufferer Holly works through a "bucket list" as she waits for a double lung transplant, while three-year-old Ayana awaits an urgent heart transplant. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D
7.15 Top Gear **8.15** Don't Tell the Bride
9.15 Russell Howard's Good News **10.15** Film: Hannibal Rising (2007) **12.10** Family Guy **2.15** Together **2.45** Rent a Cop **3.15** Asian Provocateur **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The Mystery of Rome's X Tomb
8.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America
9.00 Arne Dahl: Hidden Numbers – Part One **10.00** Arne Dahl: Hidden Numbers – Part Two **11.00** Looking for Mr Bond: 007 at the BBC **12.00** Girls in Bands: Tales from the Rock 'n' Roll Front Line **1.00** Girls in Bands at the BBC **2.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.35** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.35** Close

ITV2
2.20 You've Been Framed: Halloween Special **3.25** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **5.20** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **7.10** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **9.00** Film: Scary Movie V (2013) **10.45** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **11.35** Release the Hounds: Famous and Freaked **12.30** Trick'd: Fright Night **1.30** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** Inspector Morse **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.45 Darts: European Championship Live **5.00** Prawn Stars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Darts: European Championship Live, Day two from Hasselt, Belgium. **11.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning (2012) **1.15** The Cycle Show **2.20** Highway Patrol **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
3.00 How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Film: Aliens in the Attic (2009) **5.15** Rude (ish) Trip: Shorts **5.30** The Gulliver's Travels (2011) **6.00** Film: Salt (2010) **7.00** Gogglebox **12.40** The Inbetweeners **1.45** The IT Crowd **2.45** New Girl **3.10** The New Normal **3.30** The Mindy Project **3.55** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.20** The Goldbergs

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CHOICE



David Attenborough

The Hunt

(BBC1, 9pm)

New series. Wildlife series examining the challenges predators face as they stalk their prey, and revealing how it is far more common for hunts to end in failure. The first episode demonstrates how leopards use stealth and concealment to get close to their prey, while African wild dogs have to work as a team. The programme also features footage of killer whales, which rely on their intelligence, Nile crocodiles that can wait years between meals, spiders able to spin 25 foot webs and amur falcons, which travel 16,000 miles every year to hunt insects. Narrated by David Attenborough.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Cat Walk for Less? (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 **Countryfile's Ramble for Children In Need.** A special edition of the Countryfile series showcasing people around the country who have gone on lengthy country walks to raise money for the charity event. Matt Baker and a severely visually impaired girl climb a mountain in Snowdonia, Ellie Harrison makes a six-mile trek along the Jurassic Coast with a teenager who lost her father to cancer, Adam Henson goes hiking in the Peak District with members of the Sheffield Young Carers project, Anita Rani joins hundreds of viewers in Windsor Great Park, and Tom Hare finds out about sponsored rambles across Northern Ireland. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's trek. Plus, James Morrison performs his new song Demons and the professionals perform a group routine.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the second of two episodes from Bolsover Castle in Derbyshire. Items brought in to be valued include a painting by DH Lawrence, a broken pot with a connection to the abolition of slavery, a 19th-century pistol, a collection of vintage hats, a complete set of Famous Five books and a rare jade pendant dug up in the garden of a 17th-century house.

9.00 **The Hunt.** New series. Series following predators as they stalk their prey. The first episode features leopards, crocodiles, killer whales and wild dogs. Narrated by David Attenborough.

10.00 **BBC News.**

10.20 **Regional Programme.**

10.30 **Formula 1: Mexico Grand Prix - Highlights.**

12.00 **Citizen Khan.** (R) **12.30** **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **12.35** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** My Life on a Plate. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD Extra. **1.00** FA Cup: The Road to Wembley. (R) **1.30** World Gymnastics Championships. Live coverage of the tenth and final day from SSE Hydro Arena in Glasgow. **4.45** Rugby League.

7.00 **Caribbean with Simon Reeve.** Simon visits Barbados and St Vincent, before examining the mismanagement of Venezuela's natural resources and spending time with the Kogi people in Colombia. (R)

8.00 **Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish.** Ben Fogle takes the five remaining anglers to Costa Rica. They start out fishing close to shore, before setting out into the Pacific, where hundreds of species of fish live.

9.00 **Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF.** The Red Arrows continue to have bad luck with the weather. The RAF's fastest jet appears in a display over Bournemouth and the pilots receive some shocking news. Last in the series.

10.00 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, including Southampton v Bournemouth - the first-ever top-flight meeting between the two south coast clubs.

11.00 **Family Guy.** Chris gets teased at school for his budget-brand trainers, and tries to steal money from his parents so he can bring his image up to scratch. Meg, however, witnesses his misdeeds.

11.20 **Family Guy.** Lois is forced to find a job when the family's domestic finances are stretched and is "discovered" by a voiceover talent agent who runs an adult-only phone line.

11.45 **Top Coppers.** Rust's twin brother Vince escapes from prison, and plots to take his sibling's place at the JCPC. Police drama spoof, starring Steen Raskopoulos and John Kearns. (R)

12.15 **NFL Highlights.** Kansas City Chiefs v Detroit Lions. **1.15** **Film:** The Abominable Snowman. (1957) **2.40** **Sign Zone:** Countryfile. (R) **3.35** **Holby City.** (R) **4.35** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.25** Bottom Knockers Street. **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Share a Story. **7.10** Sooty. **7.25** Super 4. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Horrible History. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.45** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.25** The X Factor. (R) **4.50** **Film:** Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of James Bond. (2012) **Premiere.** Documentary about the making of the James Bond films.

6.35 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.45 **ITV News:** Weather.

7.00 **Jekyll and Hyde.** Robert goes looking for answers in his grandfather's house, and saves the life of a man with connections to his family. Ravi braves the undead to bring news from Ceylon.

8.00 **The X Factor.** Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of last night's live shows, with the lowest scoring acts being challenged to take part in a sing-off to avoid elimination.

9.00 **Downton Abbey.** The Crawleys watch Henry compete in a motor racing event, an occasion that leaves Mary reeling. Violet hatches a plan which surprises the family and delights Miss Denker, and learns more about Amelia's intentions in befriending Isobel. Molesley and Daisy rise to the challenges of examination day, Andy's secret is brought to light, Thomas feels isolated, and Mrs Patmore and Mrs Hughes teach Carson a lesson.

10.05 **ITV News:** Weather.

10.20 **Bond Girls Are Forever.** A bevy of Bond girls reveal what it's like to win a coveted role as the suave superspy's love interest. With contributions from Honor Blackman, Halle Berry and Ursula Andress. (R)

11.20 **The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

12.15 **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Cycling: Six Day London. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** **Film:** The Legend of Zorro. (2005) **Swashbuckling** adventure sequel, starring Antonio Banderas. **3.00** **Film:** The Core. (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **5.40** **Channel 4 News.**

6.05 **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Sara Demeter helps Liverpool couple Peter and Sue Kegan find a home in Sarasota, Florida, on their budget of £190,000.

7.00 **Restoring Britain's Landmarks.** Alastair Dick-Cleland oversees the restoration of a famous old lighthouse on Lundy Island, while John Evetts hand-crafts three Georgian fireplaces for Belmont House in Lyme Regis, but he has to ensure he remains within budget. In Fox Hall in Sussex, Anna Keay reveals the must-have gadget for the Georgian aristocrat, looking at why it took thirty years and the help of Big Ben's old engineer to restore it. (R)

8.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Penelope Scates travel from Birmingham to Braunston to attend a festival of vintage canal boats, aided on the tricky journey by their son Sam and Juliet. Timothy's daughter from his first marriage. Along the way, they meet a 78-year-old boatman, who reveals how he was born on a canal boat, and unveil a plaque dedicated to a woman who dedicated her life to preserving Britain's canals.

9.00 **Homeland.** Carrie finds the answers she seeks continue to elude her as she ends up in an unexpected situation. Meanwhile, Saul and Allison run an operation. Edited for language.

10.05 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.10 **Film: Warm Bodies.** (2013) A zombie falls in love with a woman after eating her boyfriend's brain, and starts to regain human feelings. Romantic comedy horror, starring Nicholas Hoult.

1.00 **Grand Designs Australia.** **1.55** **Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners.** (R) **2.50** **Comedians with Me.** (R) **4.40** **Food Unwrapped.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Tock. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.10** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Wandana and the Alien. (R) **8.55** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.00** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.55** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.55** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.50** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.50** **Film:** Haunted Honeymoon. (1986) Comedy, starring Gene Wilder. **4.25** **Film:** High Spirits. (1988) Supernatural comedy, starring Peter O'Toole.

6.15 **Film: Addams Family Values.** (1993) Spooky couple Gomez and Morticia hire a nanny to look after their new baby son - and stop him suffering an early death at the hands of his jealous elder siblings. Romance soon blossoms between the new childminder and Uncle Fester, but he does not realise she is planning to kill him once she has got hold of the family fortune. Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd, Christina Ricci and Joan Cusack.

7.55 **5 News Weekend.**

8.00 **Film: Arachnophobia.** (1990) A mild-mannered doctor sets up practice in a small town, but a cloud gathers over his career due to a series of unexplained deaths. Before long, he has to convince the locals that a horde of venomous spiders is responsible and confront his intense fear of arachnids into the bargain. Comedy horror, starring Jeff Daniels, John Goodman, Julian Sands and Brian McNamara. Edited for language.

10.05 **The Haunting of Radcliffe House.** A couple and their children move to an estate on the Yorkshire moors and are plagued by a series of paranormal events. Supernatural drama, with Olivia Williams and Matthew Modine. (R)

12.00 **Film: Poltergeist.** (1982) Horror, starring JoBeth Williams. **1.55** **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00** **House Doctor.** (R) **4.25** **Make It Big.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride. **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** **Film:** Halloween: Resurrection (2002) **11.25** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **12.10** Family Guy **12.55** American Dad! **1.15** Rent a Cop **1.45** Russell Howard's Good News **2.15** World's Worst Place to Be a Woman - Stacey Dooley Investigates **3.10** The Fear **3.40** Sunny D **4.00** **Close**

BBC Four
7.00 London on Film: The West End **7.30** Jacobi on Garrick: Godfather of the British Stage **8.00** Ronald Harwood in Conversation with Richard Eyre **9.00** Knights of Classic Drama at the BBC **10.00** Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life **11.00** Arena: Screen Goddesses **12.00** Natural World: Screen Goddesses of Alaska **1.00** Timeshift: The British Space Race **1.40** Bulseyes and Beers - When Darts Hit Britain: Timeshift **2.40** Ronald Harwood in Conversation with Richard Eyre **3.40** **Close**

ITV2
1.30 The Almost Impossible Gameshow **2.30** Totally You've Been Framed! **2.35** **Film:** Scooby-Doo (2002) **5.20** **Film:** Space Jam (1996) **7.05** **Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** The Ty and Ky Show **10.30** All About the Bants **11.00** The Ty and Ky Show **1.15** All About the Bants **2.00** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **2.10** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.50 Lewis **4.50** Midsomer Murders **5.55** Sunday Night at the Palladium **7.55** Wycliffe **9.00** The Nation's Favourite Elvis Song **10.30** Birds of a Feather **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.10** **Film:** The Rebel (1961) **2.55** Doctor at Large

ITV4
11.45 Storage Wars: New York **12.45** Darts: European Championship Live. **5.00** Rugby World Cup Highlights **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Darts: European Championship Live. **11.00** **Film:** Tremors (1989) **12.55** Whisker Wars **1.55** I Want That Car

E4
4.35 The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film:** Marley and Me (2008) **10.20** The Inbetweeners **11.30** The IT Crowd **12.30** Scream Queens **1.35** **Drifters**

Film4
1.15 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **1.00** Tooth Fairy (2010) **3.05** Sword of Sherwood Forest (1960) **4.40** Five Children and It (2004) **6.25** Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010) **9.00** Friends with Benefits (2011)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Deadly Revenge, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman starts a relationship with a seemingly perfect man who has an intense relationship with his mother. She discovers his only previous girlfriend died mysteriously, and becomes consumed with paranoia as she investigates what became of her. Thriller, starring Alicia Ziegler and Donna Mills. (2013)

TUESDAY
Blackthorn, BBC1, 11.45pm
Butch Cassidy lives in secluded exile in a remote Bolivian village, having survived his supposed last stand. After years away from home, he decides the time has come to return to his family in America, but on the way, he runs into an ambitious young outlaw and is drawn into one last criminal adventure. Western, starring Sam Shepard. (2011)



Erased, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY
Thirteen Days, BBC1, 11.35pm
Fact-based drama covering the events of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when the US and Soviet Union confronted each other with nuclear arsenals primed. An American spy plane observes the Russians installing ballistic missiles in Cuba – and over the next 13 days mind games are played out in Washington amid unbearable tension, as President Kennedy comes into conflict with the warmongering military. Starring Kevin Costner and Bruce Greenwood. (2000)

THURSDAY
Erased, Channel 5, 10pm
Premiere. An ex-CIA operative discovers his former employers want him dead, and have erased all records of his existence. Action thriller, with Aaron Eckhart and Olga Kurylenko. (2012)

FRIDAY
Cemetery Junction, BBC1, 11.50pm
A young man in 1970s Reading starts to question what he wants out of life, but finds his friends happy with their lot. He starts a new job selling insurance door to door, only to run into an old girlfriend – who he learns is the daughter of his new boss and engaged to the co-worker showing him the ropes. Comedy drama, starring Christian Cooke. (2010)

Joanna is All Shook Up in her personal journey

If he had lived, Elvis Presley would now be 80 years old.
It may be hard to picture the King as an octogenarian, but his fans do have plenty of other iconic images to remember him by. Some will always see him as the young, swivel-hipped rocker who took audiences by storm in the 1950s, while others picture the leather-clad veteran of the '68 comeback special, or the showman of the Vegas years.
For Joanna Lumley, who has been a loyal subject of the King ever since she bought a copy of Hound Dog, his look was part of his enduring appeal, and has even been an influence on one of her own most famous performances.
She says: "The thing about being a fan of Elvis is that you just love everything about him. I loved the way he looked, the way he sang, the way he dressed, the photographs of him, the way he performed on stage...and I loved his smile and his sense of humour."

"I love the fact that he never really grinned huge cheesy grins, he had a special Elvis grin, and I borrowed that for Patsy in Absolutely Fabulous...a little tribute to Elvis."
But now she is on a mission to put aside her own image of him and get to the truth behind the legend.
She explains: "My Elvis was this young one, before the jumpsuits and the big lifestyle. But what was he really like? If my dream had come true and he had come over to England and I had met him, I wonder would I have liked the boy buried underneath the myth? I'm going in search of the youth catapulted to fame and fortune."
As you might expect, it's a journey that takes in a trip to his home, Graceland, where she receives a personal tour from Elvis's ex-wife, Priscilla Presley.
Joanna says: "The TV room, the living room, Elvis's jungle-themed den, are virtually untouched. His mother's bedroom is still as it was."

It's open to the public, but tonight, Priscilla and I will be alone, with her memories."
However, the presenter soon discovers that Graceland is very different from the rocker's first home, as she visits a shack that his father, Vernon, built for the family in Tupelo, Mississippi. "They were dirt poor," Joanna points out. "It's extraordinary to think that this was where he was born."
There will be more revelations as she talks to his family and friends, charts his rise to fame, and pays a visit to legendary Sun Studios, where he made his first groundbreaking recordings. She also learns more about how his fans and those close to him reacted to his tragic death in 1977.
While Joanna will never get to meet the man himself, she discovers that his legacy does live on, as she calls in on another famous studio, Abbey Road, where a 'new' Elvis album is being made.



Joanna Lumley, Elvis and Me, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Simply Nigella, BBC2, 8.30pm
Fed up with a cereal for breakfast? Then chances are you need to spice up the most important meal of the day with a little inspiration. Try avocado toast with radishes instead. Yes, it might sound a little out there, but as Nigella Lawson proves in this new series, anything goes when it comes to making tasty and original dishes. The journalist and presenter reveals that what people cook and how they prepare it really can make them feel better and more alive. Also on the menu this week is a Thai noodle dish with cinnamon and prawns, and a laid-back family supper of seeded lamb ribs, served with a feta and avocado salad. And if that leaves you hungry for more, she will also be whipping up warm-spiced cauliflowers and chicksalad as well as an apricot almond cake. Bon appetit.

TUESDAY
The Great Pottery Throw Down, BBC2, 9pm
New series. Sara Cox invites 10 home pottery enthusiasts to gather in Stoke-on-Trent, where they take part in a competitive throwing contest to determine which of them should be named Top Potter. Through a series of 18 challenges, taking

place over the course of 35 days, the competitors will be judged on their craft skills and creativity by ceramic artist Kate Malone and master potter Keith Brymer Jones. The competition gets under way as the amateurs take part in a four-day assignment, in which they must produce a set of stackable kitchen bowls from lumps of earthenware clay. They also face a Spot Test, in which they must attach handles to 20 mugs within a strict time limit, and a Throw Down, where the judges ask them to make as many egg-cups as they can within 20 minutes.

WEDNESDAY
Dominic Sandbrook: Let Us Entertain You, BBC2, 9pm
New series. Dominic Sandbrook explores British post-war culture, arguing that although it is indebted to the Victorian past, it is a crucial part of modern identity. In the first edition, Dominic examines the way in which culture has become one of Britain's newest exports, claiming that it is an industry in itself, in the same way as shipbuilding and textile production. He suggests that cultural revolution has occurred in the old industrial regions, taking influence from

the former connections of the Empire, as well as the global cultural capital, London.

My Psychic Life, Channel 4, 10pm
Documentary following psychic mediums in the north of England, who reveal what life is like for those who claim they can talk to the dead.
Reports suggest that one in three British people have visited a clairvoyant or medium, with believers claiming it offers them solace, and others insisting it is hocus pocus.
In terms of business, romance, or simply a trip to the shops, the programme explores whether life is made any easier – or indeed more complicated – by having a supposed direct line to the spirit world.



Simply Nigella, Monday, BBC2, 8.30pm

THURSDAY
George Clarke's Amazing Spaces, Channel 4, 8pm
If you were hoping to see the last in the current run a week ago, then the scheduling folks decided to prolong the agony a little longer. Now we finally get to see the series finale, in which the amiable host meets a father and daughter who are turning an American school bus into a festival campervan. He also heads off to Germany to meet a young dad who has turned a grain silo into a home. However, the question on many a fan's lips is: will George and Will's floating beach hut work? After months of construction work, the moment of truth finally arrives as it is launched onto the open sea. However, Will has come up with a contingency plan just in case; he has added an escape pod made from an old bath.

FRIDAY
Ice Road Truckers, Channel 5, 8pm
The drivers for trucking companies VP Express and Polar Industries are put to the test when the winter presents an even bigger adversary – the Polar Vortex, bringing with it the worst winter conditions in a century. With the storm due, Lisa Kelly and Darrell Ward return to lead team Polar to victory.

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A SUPERBLY presented traditional semi-detached family home in a most popular location in Frankley Avenue, Halesowen, is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £259,950.

With gas central heating and dou-

ble glazing it has a driveway leading to the front door, an entrance hall with stairs off and Karndean flooring, a lounge with an electric log-effect fire and French doors to a conservatory, a dining room with Karndean flooring, kitchen and utility with ceramic floor tiling and a WC.

Upstairs bedroom one has a bay window and wardrobes and there are

two further bedrooms and a bathroom with a bath with a shower over and wall tiling.

Outside the rear garden has a long lawn with borders and a decked area and vegetable patch and there is also a garage.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit the agent's website at www.hickshadley.com



www.bakersproperty.co.uk

GORNAL THORNLEIGH



Modern detached in a popular residential area a short distance from the village centre and in immaculate order throughout. Detached, Block paved drive, Garage, Reception hall, Lounge, Formal dining area Fully fitted kitchen, Cloakroom Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C/htg/, double glazed, Private landscaped gardens

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,950

THE STRAITS HIGH ARCAL ROAD



Extended individual design bungalow, standing on a sizeable elevated plot in a sought after residential area.

Reception hall, lounge, formal dining/study, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room/cloaks, garage, gas C/htg, double glazed, landscaped gardens, freehold, vacant possession

OFFERS BASED ON £244,950

GORNAL



- ASH GROVE
- Detached Bungalow
- Reception Hall
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- En suite to Master, Bathroom
- Gas C/htg/Double Glazed
- Garage

OFFERS BASED ON £209,950

GORNAL



- WOOD ROAD
- Semi detached
- Hall, Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas C/htg/Double glazed
- Parking
- Sizeable Gardens

OFFERS BASED ON £117,500

GORNAL



- ST CHADS CLOSE
- Modern Bungalow
- Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Gardens

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

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Viewing of family semi is highly recommended



THIS immaculately presented three-bedroomed semi-detached family home in Regent Road, Tividale, is for sale through The Property Shop at £140,000.

It has an entrance hall, lounge with dining area, a fitted kitchen, a guest WC, a first-floor landing, three well proportioned bedrooms and a well appointed bathroom.

To the front is a driveway providing off-road parking for a number of vehicles, whilst to the rear is a garden with patio and decked areas and lawn with fence.

Internal viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate what it has to offer.

For further information contact The Property Shop on 01384 444143 or visit the agent's website www.the-propertyshop.co.uk





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Village



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New

SWINDON, Church Road

Commanding a generous corner position with a large private rear garden, In & Out Driveway and DOUBLE GARAGE, this SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys a private front outlook within Swindon Village, close to village amenities, offering a very spacious layout comprising: Reception Hall, WC, three reception rooms, Family Breakfast Kitchen, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS, En Suite Shower Room and Bathroom. EPC C


KINGSWINFORD, Southwood Close

● OPEN DAY SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 11 am - 1 pm ● In BEAUTIFUL GARDENS this EXTENDED SPACIOUS DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE, offers: hall with cloaks off, SPACIOUS LOUNGE, separate dining room, IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN, breakfast space and laundry area, FOUR BEDROOMS, en-suite, DESIGNER BATHROOM and uPVC d/glazing. Extensive parking, Double garage and BROAD GARDENS with patio, lawn and suntrap. EPC C


KINGSWINFORD, Dene Avenue

A SUBSTANTIAL & ENLARGED LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE DORMER LOFT CONVERSION, well placed for schools, offering a LARGE LAYOUT including FIVE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM. BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and a SECLUDED REAR GARDEN. EPC D

£389,950
Open day
£337,500
New price
£259,950

KINGSWINFORD, Kingsley Road

An IMPROVED SEMI-DETACHED HOME convenient for excellent schooling, offering an impressive layout with Conservatory and SUPERB LOFT CONVERSION creating THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS master with an EN-SUITE. With driveway, garage and a large garden. EPC D


Dudley, Abbotsford Drive

Well proportioned DETACHED HOME with gas heating/double glazing, including: large porch, spacious hall, dining room, through lounge, attractive fitted kitchen, utility, cloaks/WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC E


PENSNETT, Elgar Crescent

THIS DETACHED FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE designed by 'David Payne' in this noted address, EXTENDED AND PLANNED, offers: HUGE ENTRANCE, Hall, Cloaks/toilet, 18' Lounge, 18' Conservatory, Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, Utility/Playroom, Bedroom/Dressing room (reverts to Beds 1&4), Two further Bedrooms and Bathroom, Forecourt Parking and Garden with 'GARDEN ROOM'. EPC C


Kingswinford, Whitehall Road

A very rare opportunity to purchase an ENLARGED DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW upon "Valleyfields", offering a THREE BEDROOM layout which REQUIRES UPDATING, yet providing FANTASTIC POTENTIAL, plus a driveway, GARAGE and a level, attractive garden. EPC E


WORDSLEY, Brierley Hill Road

A VERY INDIVIDUAL & SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW within this established address, offering an exceptionally large THREE BEDROOM layout which, although requiring updating, provides SUPERB POTENTIAL, plus a driveway, GARAGE and level, sunny garden. EPC D

New price
£229,950
New price
£219,950
£216,450
£204,950
New price
£199,950

LOWER GORNAL, Straits, Chaucer Avenue

This extended semi-detached family home offers huge potential for improvement and is situated in the extremely popular area of The Straits Lower Gornal. It comprises of THREE BEDROOMS, entrance hallway, through-lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, re-fitted shower room, integral garage, centrally heated and double glazed, drive to front and enclosed rear garden. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: C. SEDGLEY


LOWER GORNAL, Mount Lane

A SPACIOUS, stylish, and significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached accommodation: hall, walk-in cloaks/store, through living room (with clearly defined lounge & dining room sections), brick/ uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, upgraded kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Wide garage with further store/work room beyond. Block paved driveway, neat rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY


QUARRY BANK, Stockwell Avenue

THIS IMPRESSIVELY EXTENDED, THREE/FOUR BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, lounge, SPLENDID RE-FITTED KITCHEN DINER with a range of integrated appliances, THREE/ FOUR LARGE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Driveway, lovely Garden. EPC D


WOODSETTON, Park Close

Attractive, Freehold, gas centrally heated, mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached at head of short cul-de-sac briefly comprising: entrance porch, hall, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, tiled bathroom. Parking, secluded rear garden with substantial timber workshop. EPC: D. SEDGLEY


Brierley Hill, Henzel Croft

Encompassing an STUNNING CONTEMPORARY 'GLOSS STYLE' KITCHEN, this THREE BEDROOM HOME would make a FANTASTIC FIRST TIME BUY or FAMILY HOME. Also comprising: Hall, Stylish lounge, Guests W.C, Two Modern Bathrooms, Garage & Lovely Garden. EPC: B

Offers in the Region of £164,950
Offers in the Region of £160,000
£155,000
Offers in the region of £150,000
£149,950

WORDSLEY, Bells Lane

THIS IMMACULATE & EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED PERIOD SEMI DETACHED HOUSE is BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED & TASTEFULLY DECORATED throughout, providing two reception rooms with log burner, and TWO BEDROOMS, with ENSUITE SHOWER. With a small parking space and a long rear garden. EPC D


LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Enviously situated in cul-de-sac just off The Straits within walking distance of the village & backing on to country park at rear: a significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate "family home", briefly comprising: hallway, spacious living/dining room, rear hallway with store, kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woodland. EPC: E. SEDGLEY


GORNAL WOOD, Cinder Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN within walking distance of Village! A gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but now provides further potential. Accommodation includes porch, hall, 20ft L Shape living/dining room, kitchen, outer lobby, three bedrooms, reapportioned bathroom with white suite, neat low maintenance garden, garage. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY


LOWER GORNAL, Bayswater Road

OUTSTANDING! Comprehensively modernised, exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate family home that has been transformed by present vendors to an exemplary standard comprising: hall, cloakroom, lounge, refitted 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with integrated appliances and a range of 'birch' finish units, conservatory. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Block paved foregarden, secluded garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY


GORNAL WOOD, Bank Road

WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE! A gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been completely redecorated and refreshed in recent months comprising: hall, cloaks, kitchen, living/dining room, THREE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with a shower room en suite), bathroom. Parking, garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY

No upward chain
£142,500
Fixed Price of £140,000
Offers in the region of £139,950
Offers in the region of £135,000
Offers in the Region of £130,000
www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road

Highly individual, REMARKABLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM (two en-suite) detached imaginatively planned to an exciting contemporary design comprising: reception hall, cloakroom, dining room, magnificent 17'8" lounge, well equipped kitchen, second bedroom with shower room en suite, two further double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, and to the second floor a magnificent principal bedroom suite with a range of fitted units & shower room en suite. Garage. Neat garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



KINGSWINFORD, Ridge Road

A LARGE 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME within a sought after location, close to excellent schools with a LARGE LEVEL REAR GARDEN, BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and 49ft LONG SIDE GARAGE, offering a WELL APPPOINTED and ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED layout EPC: D



SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road, Northway

ENVIAIBLE LOCATION! Backing onto fields and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS a conscientiously maintained, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated detached with tremendous potential in favoured backwater location. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, through living/dining room, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, generous garage, gardens. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,950

£244,950

Offers in the Region of £209,950



UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer style detached with remarkably flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises: hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent 'hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To the first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite. Parking, landscaped gardens, good distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950



SEDGLEY, Ashen Close, Northway

ENVIAIBLY SITUATED backing on to open fields. Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow that has been upgraded, with PLANNING CONSENT for rear extension comprising: hallway, cloaks, refitted kitchen, 17'4" living/dining room, inner hallway, store, two bedrooms (both with fitted units & principal bedroom with patio doors out to the garden), bathroom. Gated driveway, garage, and sheltered rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in th region of £185,000



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

SCANDANAVIAN STYLE. Spacious, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home constructed to a first quality specification & presented in exemplary order. Designed to match adjacent property with minimal energy/running costs the accommodation includes: hall, cloakroom, 18ft lounge, 19ft 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with 'high gloss vanilla' finish units, garden room (wood burner fitted). Three bedrooms, bathroom, garden, GARAGE (rear), additional parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £185,000



COSELEY, Somerford Way

Superbly presented modern detached property situated in the popular Coaseley area and benefitting from Upvc double glazing, gas central heating, and briefly comprising: entrance hallway, guest w/c, living room, kitchen-diner. FOUR BEDROOMS, re-fitted family bathroom, Garage, garden and drive to front, enclosed rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £179,950, NOW £175,000



SEDGLEY, Alderdale Avenue, Northway

JUST READY TO MOVE INTO! A tremendously upgraded and meticulously presented freehold gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and primarily UPVC double glazed detached bungalow in popular district comprising hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, garage, TWO BEDROOMS, delightful rear garden. EPC Rating TBA. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £164,950



NETHERTON, Marlow Close

This STUNNING & SUPERBLY IMPROVED, EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Stylish Lounge, EXTENDED KITCHEN, Utility, CONSERVATORY, TWO Contemporary Bathrooms, Three Bedrooms, Driveway, Garage & Delightful Garden. EPC: C

New price

£149,950



WOLVERHAMPTON, Waverley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

A conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached house benefiting from well-appointed lounge, extended dining-room, good-sized modern kitchen, 31' tandem garage, family bathroom, driveway and enclosed rear garden. Viewing Essential. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950



WOODSETTON, Chartwell Close

An attractive significantly improved conscientiously maintained gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached in short convenient cul de sac. Superb (recently redecorated throughout) stylish accommodation includes hallway, 15ft lounge, dining room (with patio doors), kitchen, large pantry, three generous bedrooms, tiled bathroom with white suite, garage, delightful neat well tended garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £149,000



COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill

Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow in quiet secluded location. Accommodation includes: entrance hallway, living/dining room, kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, shower room. Driveway & parking, brick garage, garden. SEDGLEY EPC: D.

Offers in the Region of £147,000



LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

IMMEDIATE WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE), a conscientiously maintained, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising: reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 17 ft living/dining room, upgraded kitchen, outer porch, Garage (utilised as additional living room). Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet. Block paved driveway, ample gardens. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,000



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

An attractive SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed semi detached 'miner cottage' with NO UPWARD CHAIN, enviably situated in favoured/convenient district. The property offers further potential and presently comprises entrance hallway, lounge, extended 17ft 'hub of the house' dining kitchen (with patio doors out to garden), lobby, separate toilet. Two bedrooms, bathroom, delightful particularly lengthy sheltered rear garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £135,000, NOW £130,000



PENSNETT, Broad Street

Encompassing an IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN and a THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, this SEMI-DETACHED HOME would make a GREAT FAMILY HOME. The property also comprises: Hall, Stylish Lounge, Family Bathroom, Large Tarmac Driveway, Garage, Pretty Garden. EPC: D

£129,950



DUDLEY, Garrick Close, 'Earls Keep'

GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT - a RARE OPPORTUNITY a gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed ground floor apartment set upon well graded development. Accommodation provides central reception hall, two generous bedrooms (principle bedroom with built in wardrobes and shower room en suite), lounge with bay, dining section with bay, kitchen, bathroom, extensive communal grounds/allocated parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £125,000



SEDGLEY, The Walk

LARGE EXTENSION and TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and part UPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement in popular/convenient district. With a number of character features the accommodation includes entrance hall, through lounge (with patio doors), kitchen, lobby, separate toilet, store, further living/occasional bedroom with large shower/wet room ensuite. Three bedrooms, bathroom, drive, secluded rear garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £125,000



UPPER GORNAL, Naylors Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Well presented good-sized family property situated in the popular area of Upper Gornal. The gas centrally heated accommodation includes entrance hall, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, conservatory, guest W/C, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Enclosed rear garden, driveway to front. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £122,500

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COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive
Outstanding, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed end "starter home" with panoramic distant views briefly comprising: entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of beech effect units, sitting room/snug.Two bedrooms, bathroom. Potential garage space, landscaped garden EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Hickmerelands Lane
Fantastically situated at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac this well presented semi-detached property benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, THREE BEDROOMS, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, guest w/c, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



NETHERTON, Chichester Avenue
Encompassing a LOVELY CONTEMPORARY BREAKFAST KITCHEN, This THREE BEDROOM HOME would make a FANTASTIC FIRST TIME BUY or FAMILY HOME & comprises: Spacious Sitting Room, Modern Bathroom, Garage & Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens. EPC C

Offers around £120,000

New price

WAS £124,950, NOW £119,950

£117,500



Brierley Hill, Goldencross Way
This perfect STARTER HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and has a UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED and GAS CENTRALLY HEATED LAYOUT. To comprise: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Kitchen Diner, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden. EPC C



DUDLEY, Old Park Road
An extended traditional semi-detached property that benefits from entrance hallway, living room, dining room, extended kitchen, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden, driveway to fore and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



GORNAL WOOD, Brook Street
Beautifully presented, traditional, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, TWO BEDROOM mid-terraced property set in the popular, Gornal Wood. This fabulous home benefits from well-presented living room, attractive breakfast-kitchen, utility area, stunning Victorian style bathroom, good-sized master bedroom, stunning cottage style enclosed rear garden. Viewing Essential to appreciate what this property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Wealdstone Drive
A delightfully presented property situated in the popular area of Lower Gornal, benefiting from UPVC double glazing, part gas central heating, entrance hall way, guest W/C, living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden to front. Ideal first time buyer property. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Hollywell Street, Hurst Hill
Delightful recently gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed FIRST FLOOR flat conveniently situated within walking distance of so many day to day amenities. Individual front door to entrance hallway with staircase up to hall, lounge, kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom, two generous stores, communal grounds. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

New price

£116,000

Offers in the region of £114,950

Offers in the region of £114,950

Offers in the region of £114,950

Offers in the region of £64,950



WORDSLEY, Guardians Walk
AN IMMACULATE, LUXURY APPOINTED, SECOND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT within this stylish modern development, offering an exceptional layout which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO', plus ALLOCATED CAR PARKING and SEPARATE VISITOR PARKING. EPC B



NETHERTON, Baptist End Road
This EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME should appeal to those seeking an INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY and comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Extended Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Large Garden. EPC:



DUDLEY, Occupation Street
Well maintained end of terraced property which offers potential and is an ideal starter home. It is situated in the sought after area of Dudley and benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, through-lounge, kitchen, fitted shower room, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front and detached garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:D. SEDGLEY



NETHERTON, Wharf Mews
THIS BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT has lovely views of the nearby CANAL and comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Modern Kitchen, Two Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite), Bathroom, Allocated/Visitor Parking, Pretty Communal Grounds. EPC C



UPPER GORNAL, Tenacre Lane
NO UPWARD CHAIN. This good sized property has the potential to be a superb family home. It is set in the popular Upper Gornal area, and benefits from entrance hallway, kitchen, dining room, utility, guest w.c. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Front & rear gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

£109,950

£109,950

Offers in the region of £107,950

£106,950

Offers in the region of £94,950



BROCKMOOR, Campbell Street
This SPACIOUS, 'PERIOD' STYLE, THREE BEDROOM, END TERRACE HOME is offered 'for sale' with NO UPWARD CHAIN & comprises: TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Cellar, GENEROUS FITTED KITCHEN, Bathroom, Three First Floor Bedrooms & Rear Garden. EPC: E



UPPER GORNAL, Clarence Street
Fantastically presented, traditional terraced property situated in the popular location of Upper Gornal and benefitting from gas central heating, living room, dining room, kitchen, re-fitted family bathroom, two bedrooms, spiral staircase leading to loft room, enclosed rear garden, ideal for first-time buyers. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Cypress Road
This WELL PRESENTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME should appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS & comprises: Lounge, SUPERB RE-FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, TWO GOOD FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Front/ Rear Gardens. EPC:



TIPTON, Bonneville Close
Superb, modern ground floor apartment which comprises of upvc double glazing, gas central heating and secure entrance doors, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, allocated parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Viewfield Crescent
A first floor UPVC single glazed flat with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear conveniently situated within walking distance of so many day to day amenities. Shared entrance approach to flat with hall, living room, kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom, store. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY OFFICE

£89,950

Offers in the region of £89,950

£82,500

Offers in the region of £74,950

Offers in the region of £49,950

Superb period residence with adjoining cottage



THIS substantial, double-fronted, period family home in Beech Road, Norton, Stourbridge, is near Mary Stevens Park.

Despite requiring some sympathetic renovation, it is tremendously versatile and having an adjoining cottage, and is for sale through Taylors at £450,000.

The main property has an initial hall with Minton floor tiling, a reception hall with stairs off, a sitting room with a bay window, a further sitting room, a central hall, a study/hobbies room with wood panelling and feature tiled fireplace, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen with a door to a courtyard, side porch/verandah, a cellar, four first-floor bedrooms, nursery room/bedroom six, a shower room and bathroom. The cottage has a hall area, L-shaped dining area with kitchen, sitting room, cupboard/possible study, a bedroom, bathroom, further possible bedroom/loft space, gardens and outbuildings. Call 01384 395555 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

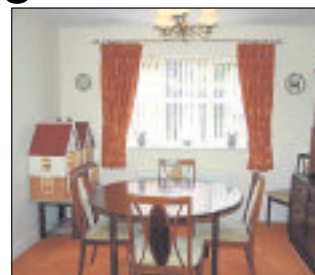


Four-bed detached in pleasing location

A WELL-designed Morris-built four-bed-roomed detached house in the Bramhall design, 3 Leagate Avenue, Stourport-On-Severn lies in a pleasing location within the desirable development.

It is for sale through Allan Morris at £234,950. With well stocked gardens it has an inviting reception hall, guest WC, a spacious large lounge with a square bay window and flame-effect fire and double doors to the dining room, a breakfast kitchen with hob, extractor and eye-level oven and grill, utility, gallery landing, main bedroom en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom and a driveway.

Contact Allan Morris on 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



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New Meriva WITH £2000 SCRAPPAGE



New Astra WITH £2000 SCRAPPAGE



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ASX is back in contention

By John Griffiths

It's hard to come up with just one reason for the phenomenon, but there's no doubt that the car buying public's love affair with 'cross-over' vehicles has made them the biggest-sellers in the market.

It's probably a combination of purposeful looks, the high 'command' driving position and the prospect of some off-road and winter weather potential, but sales are still growing and so are the number of models available.

Mitsubishi's offering is the ASX: not new exactly, but now a second generation model with a raft of upgrades is now taking to the roads of Britain. It does stand out from the herd, not least because of its pedigree. Mitsubishi has a wealth of experience in producing four wheel drive cars and this family-orientated model is based on the same platform as the iconic, high performance Lancer Evolution.

It comes with three engine options: a 1.6 petrol, a brand new and highly efficient 1.6 turbo diesel and, in top of the range versions only, a 2.2 diesel mated to a six-speed automatic transmission.

It's front end is particularly distinctive due to its large radiator grille set in a softer, more rounded shape made largely with impact-absorbing plastic panels – saving weight and, in the worst case scenario, possibly lives as it is designed to reduce injuries in a pedestrian collision. Yet it still has the stronger lines of a tradition SUV, rather than a family hatchback on steroids. This is reinforced by the impressive ground clearance and protective black plastic panels on the lower edges. It's a full five-seater with a light and airy cabin, a family-sized boot and it is well-equipped with quality trim.

Prices are competitive, with the top of the range ZC-H – with four wheel drive, the most powerful 2.2 litre diesel and automatic transmission – at £24,899.

At the other end of the scale, the 1.6 litre, 115bhp petrol front wheel drive model comes in at a modest £14,999. The 2.2 auto is nippy with a 0 to 62mph time of 10.8 seconds, and an official average fuel consumption of 48.7mpg CO2 rating 157g/km).

During my test I managed a very reasonable 37mpg on two runs across the West Midlands in the rush hour, and 44mpg during mixed town and country driving.

Improved

Weight saving, has of course played its part in the improved performance/economy combination, as has the advanced four wheel drive system. On models which have this improved system, you'll normally be perfectly happy with the fuel-saving front wheel drive option. But if conditions get slippery you only have to press a button and you're in 'auto' mode, where torque is automatically distributed between axles according to driving style and conditions – when the front wheels start to slip, for example. Anything between two and 50 per cent of the torque can be transferred to the rear axles virtually instantly.

Press the button again and you have four wheel drive locked in, for snow or the occasion off-road foray. When a higher proportion of torque is fed to the rear,

Electric power steering and a regenerative braking system also help to save fuel.

The six-speed auto transmission has three modes: 'eco' and sport plus sport with manual changes via paddles behind the steering wheel. In sport mode, the system allows you to use the higher rev ranges before changing up, and changes down more readily, too.

But to be honest, conscious of economy I



stuck almost entirely with 'eco' mode as the 2.2 turbo diesel has plenty of low range torque and is impressively responsive to 'kick-down', allowing you to surge ahead of slower traffic.

The suspension is longer-travel and a little beefier than a standard saloon, reflecting its off-road potential, but it is well damped so it doesn't crash over badly surfaced roads.

The ASX has a longish wheelbase, relative to its size, and together with its lighter weight this has helped to sharpen up its handling. Driver and passengers sit tall with large areas of glass under that large, panoramic glass roof which adds to the feeling of space.

Air conditioning and a new entertainment, satnav and communications system based

around a centre console screen, which also shows you a rear view as soon as you select reverse. There are remote controls for the communications/stereo on the steering wheel, too, as well as the simple to operate cruise control.

The ASX was awarded a five-star EuroNCAP safety rating, helped by an array of technology to prevent or reduce the effects of a collision. This includes active stability control, traction control, hill start assist, ABS with electronic brake force distribution, emergency stop signal activation and no less than seven airbags.

It's likely the biggest seller will be Mitsubishi's new 1.6 turbo diesel, which with 112bhp and well over twice the torque of its petrol stablemate, is only fractionally behind the flag-

ship 2.2 auto in performance terms. But it's the winner in terms of fuel and tax costs with figures of 61.4mpg and 119g/km in two wheel drive versions, and 56.5mpg and 132g/km for the 4WD model.

The boot has 419 litres of space (plus an underfloor compartment) which increases to 1,193 litres if you fold down the rear seats.

The ASX has purposeful looks which help to set it apart from its growing band of competitors and the latest upgrades in economy, safety and technology have brought it back into contention with some of the newer rivals launched in the last couple of years.

Space, comfort and an upmarket feel add to its proven competence.



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Versatility and space make Jazz big winner

By John Griffiths

Honda's baby is growing up – in more ways than one – with a new Jazz which has blossomed into one of the biggest and most versatile hatchbacks in its class.

It may be Honda's smallest car, but the all-new Jazz's interior offers the sort of space which puts some family saloons to shame, particularly if you happen to be a six-footer confined to the rear seats.

It's all down to clever packaging, as the new car is a sleeker, more aerodynamic shape and less than four inches longer than its predecessor. Higher quality materials, new technology and a more refined ride convey the feeling that this third generation car has grown up in other ways, too.

Prices range from £13,495 to £17,425 but perhaps the limiting factor is that there is only one engine option, a 1,300cc, 102bhp petrol unit.

It does come, though, with the option of a manual gearbox or a continuously variable transmission auto, which is actually more economical – enough to promise tax as well as fuel savings.

Although the engine choice was obviously made long before the controversy about diesel emissions hit the headlines, it will be interesting to see if that has any impact on Jazz sales. But maybe Honda thought that a family-sized hatchback offering average petrol usage of between 55 and 61mpg was incentive enough in this market.

The new Jazz looks sleeker, more sporty, with sculpted side panels and a bolder new front end with echoes of the larger Civic. But it's on the inside where it scores, with the use of higher grade materials, new technology on higher grade models, new seats, and, of course, the amount of extra room created in the redesign. The top of the range test car with its clear instruments and trim which combined touches of leather, chrome and high glass plastic had a more expensive feel than its actual price tag.

Its 0 to 62mph acceleration time is reasonably nifty at 11.2 seconds (a fraction longer with the CVT transmission) but even when pushed hard between gears the engine remains sewing machine smooth.

Refined

Perhaps more significant is that sixth gear is almost an overdrive, so that during motorway cruising it's particularly refined for a small car: you're more likely to be aware of the gentle hiss of the large wing mirrors disrupting the airflow than of anything mechanical.

The new chassis and body are light but particularly stiff, which contributes to the low noise levels but also means the Jazz is light and responsive to steering input. Its suspension is tuned for a supple ride yet it resists the tendency to rock 'n' roll through corners, an essential in terms of ride comfort.

The rear doors are large, for easy access, and once inside even a six-footer will have head and leg room to spare.

The Jazz has Honda's trademark 'magic seat' system which means the rear seats are multi-adjustable (and can even be reclined) to juggle between the demands of cargo and passengers. It has a generous 354 litres of boot space, rising to 884 if the rear seats are folded down.

The test car was a top of the range EX Nav specification, which comes in at £16,325. With its manual transmission its official fuel average is 55.4mpg with a CO2 rating of 120g/km. But if you pay an extra £11,000 for the CVT version, you actually get a couple of extra miles per gallon and a lower CO2 rating of 114g/km, according to the official test figures.

The cleanest and greenest Jazz in the range is the entry level S model with the CVT system at £14,59, with 61.4mpg and 108g/km, which also brings it down one VED tax band (from C to B).

This base model comes with a CD/stereo with Bluetooth and remote controls on the steering wheel, electric windows, automatic lights and wipers, stop/start system and Honda's 'magic seats', (those in the rear can recline, too). Safety features such as front, side and curtain airbags, stability assist, hill start assist, city brake and electronic brake force distribution are standard across the range.

Higher up the range features such as electrically heated and adjustable mirrors, alloy wheels, parking sensors, and the Honda Connect infotainment and connectivity system, controlled by a centrally mounted seven-inch touchscreen, are added. The EX gets a rear view camera, automatic air conditioning, rear privacy glass, leather steering wheel and electric windows all round. SatNav is available on SE and EX 'Navi' versions.

For me the new Jazz is a winner in the space race, yet with only a minimal increase in exterior size it's no more difficult to handle around town or to park.

It may only have one engine option, but it's one that can rival many smaller, one-litre city cars for economy and tax efficiency so it's unlikely to harm the Jazz's heritage as one of Honda's most popular models.



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CX-5 from Mazda is ticking all the boxes

By John Griffiths

With more and more cars in the 'compact SUV' area of the market, manufacturers have to offer more to win over drivers.

Mazda has done just that with its CX-5 as the car, which first appeared three years ago, has undergone a series of significant trim and equipment upgrades.

The designation 'compact' is a bit of a misnomer these days, as Mazda launched its smaller CX-3 earlier this year to compete with the likes of the Renault Captur and Vauxhall Mokka. The CX-5, as you might suspect, is clearly larger and comes with bigger, more powerful engine options.

There are petrol and diesel options, two and four wheel drive and and three trim levels to choose from at prices from just over £23,000 to £30,995.

The test car was the top of the range version, with the most powerful engine – the 2.2 litre turbo diesel with 175PS of power, a hefty 420Nm of torque, six-speed manual gearbox, an 'on demand' four wheel drive system and the highest level of trim and equipment. These, of course, are credentials which have earned it two successive 'Tow Car of the Year' awards in its category from the Caravan Club, and a 'Best Winter Car' accolade from the Carbuyer website.

It has large windows contributing to a lighter, even roomier feel to the cabin in spite of the black leather upholstery and the high 'command' driving position which is one of the biggest attractions for SUV enthusiasts.

As the most powerful and torquey version, this CX-5 naturally performs effortlessly (0 to 62mph in 8.8 seconds) with the engine rarely breathing heavily, adding to the smooth, relaxed ambience which puts the range flagship into the luxury end of this market segment.

The four wheel drive system is aimed primarily and traction and safety on the road, rather than off it, so the suspension too is road-orientated: not the long-travel, bumpy set-up of some soft-roaders with Land Rover pretensions.

Not that the system wouldn't cope with the odd foray onto wet grass or muddy tracks, though, when towing a caravan or trailer off a camp site.

It's all automatic – no extra buttons or levers. In normal road conditions 100 per cent of the torque goes through the front wheels but if they start to lose traction, anything up to 50 per cent is transferred to the rear wheels virtually instantly. It has the advantages of a more traditional 4WD system but it's lighter with less drag in normal driving, thus saving fuel. And that's what it's all about in this sector: many of the advantages of a full-blown SUV but for less money and with lower fuel and tax costs.

Economy

The CX-5 has been widely acclaimed for its real-world economy, with an official average of more than 54mpg and a CO2 rating of 136g/km.

It's a prime example of Mazda's 'SKYACTIV' technology which is now the central component of all its cars: features such as increased engine efficiency and the use of new materials in the chassis which are both stronger and lighter. It was the company's first model to demonstrate this new way of building cars.

The CX-5 seats five adults with a big boot – 503 litres – which expands to 1,620 if you fold the rear seats down. It's more in the family saloon area than the 'hatchback on steroids' of many in the compact sector.

The front leather seats are electrically adjustable to suit a wide range of driving positions and electrically heated, too. You get a Bose premium sound system and, of course, climate control to help keep you comfortable.

This year's improvements include the latest multimedia commander, based around a seven-inch touch screen for the new satnav (on higher grade models such as the test car) plus audio and infotainment systems, with USB and smartphone connectivity. These functions are also controllable from remote buttons on the multifunction steering wheel.

LED daytime running lights and fog lamps and 19-inch gunmetal alloys are among the exterior upgrades for 2015. The £29,395 test car was also fitted with the optional (for £800) safety pack which includes adaptive headlights, blind spot monitoring, lane departure warning and rear 'cross traffic alert'.

Other options in the range include two and four wheel drive versions, automatic transmission and two other engine choices – a 2.0 litre, 165PS petrol and a 2.0 litre, 150PS diesel. Insurance groups range from 15E to 21E.

As well as winning awards from industry pundits, the CX-5 has been a big hit with car buyers, too – even though it was Mazda's first entry into the burgeoning compact SUV segment it passed the one million mark in a little over three years, making it one of its quickest sellers ever.

That shouldn't be a surprise as it ticks all the boxes. It has the qualities of a well-appointed family saloon with the added extras of all-weather security, great visibility and obvious attractions for the towing set.

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fishing

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jumble sales / fetes

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JUMBLE & BRIC-A-BRAC SALE
Saturday, October 31
10am till 12 noon.
Many items from 20p.
Admission 20p.

music shop

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what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR
Kinner Comm Centre, Sun. 1st Nov & 29th. (also Bromsgrove every Fri) Stalls available for the 29th EST 1979. Waverley. Next Book Fair, Sun 15th Nov. 0121 550 4123.

Home & Services

furniture

ANTIQUE original, pine bedroom furniture, single wardrobe, dressing table chest of drawers, suit shabby chic. £300. 07837 579318.

DARK BLUE gold 2-seater settee, 2 armchairs, pouffe, must collect. £180. 01384 297202.

DINING ROOM SUITE Old charm style, dresser, table and chairs. £550. 01902 892565.

LEATHER SUITE
Lazy boy cost £2,800 accept £100.
Dining Suite, light oak, chairs black leather, £60.
Large modern view, display cabinet, cost £800 accept £75. 01384 824468/07716 133493.

TAN LEATHER 3 piece suite, brown fabric back and seat cushions, totally unused, cost £1,400, sell £400. Can deliver. 07874 767549.

TWO WINGED back chairs, suitable for restoration. Must collect. £100. 01384 297202.

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A ABSOLUTE beautiful cultivated lawn turf, grown locally, next day delivery from £1.50 per roll. 01902 453794 / 07710 000931

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items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CORNER UNIT. Beautiful wooden corner unit, with leaded glass doors and inside light and cupboard. £70 ono. 07946 308919.

HOTTEST TROLLEY with 4 dishes, pull down lid to keep plates hot £30 quick sale. Table top fridge, little ice box £35. 07950 418286.

items wanted

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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

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BEACON CENTRE For The Blind require unwanted furniture / house clearances. 01902 866799.

CASH FOR UNWANTED GOLD AND SILVER Home calls. Please call Michael on 07542 359159.

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COMICS & CIGARETTE CARDS

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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ROUND BALE HAY & HAYLAGE for sale, £25 per bale. Can deliver. 01902 840603 or 07836 647754.

guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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All neutered, inoculated and chipped.
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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEAUTIFUL KITTENS x4, male and female, different colours. £40 each to ensure good homes. 01902 218944.

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vets

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

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business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

6 Property

accommodation to let

A 3 BEDROOM First Floor Flat to let Wellington Road Bilston DSS ok 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A FULLY FURNISHED one bed flat, working couple/single, off Stafford Road, £35pw. 07978 211612.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DETACHED BEDSIT chalet, Tettenhall/Codsall, parkland setting, single, professional 07979 064413.

HIGH QUALITY STUDIO FLATS Tettenhall area. No DSS. 07976 263435 / 01902 700029.

ROOMS TO LET. Bills included in Bilston, Tipton and Wolverhampton areas. Call 07773 594640.

SMART ROOMS in shared house, Netherton, from £85 pw inc bills. No DSS. Small deposit 07970 717139

SUPERIOR BEDSIT DUDLEY. Refurb'd to high standard. £70pw. 07581 003289, 01384 253052.

THREE BED semi, Bilston, DG, CH, garden, drive, garage. Deposit. 01902 352224, 07792 441114.

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mobile homes

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LOOK

overseas property

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7 Jobs

courses

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drivers

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part time - general

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Please contact Customer Services on 0800 174064

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full time - general

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Full Time Senior Care Assistant
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Must have experience of working in a senior position in a residential care setting, Health & Social Care Level 3 with full medication training.

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

cars over £1500

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ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN C2, AUTOMATIC, 2006, 35,000 miles, red, electric windows, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, stop start, £1,235. 07773 996403.

CITROEN C5 ESTATE 2003, 141,400 miles, silver, 11 months MoT, 6 years service new clutch brakes drives superb £949 07581 052777.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 Desire, 2005, 05 reg., one owner, full MoT, 14 extras, very nice condition, £675. 07570 466779.

FIAT PUNTO Blue, 5-dr, Excellent condition, 1 reg. MoT'd Serviced regularly. £350. 07775 268149.

FORD FIESTA Van, 2001, petrol, 1235cc, 81,000 miles, 11 months MoT, 4400 one. 07432 403911 / 01902 833126.

FORD FOCUS, 2003, 79,000 miles, new tyres pads and battery this year, MoT 2016, clean all round condition, £850 ono. 07931 791551.

FORD KA, 02, blue, electric windows, air con, MoT lapsed but good runner. 72,000 miles. CD. £175 ono. 07966 046172.

FORD KA 2005, 64,500 miles, silver, abs, air bag, MoT, pas, stereo, CD. £700. 07970 706338.

FORD KA 54 reg, pepper red, 10 months MoT, 83,000 miles, good condition inside and out, alloy wheels. £650 ono. 07835 085563.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2003, Metallic blue, electric windows & mirrors, air con, service history, remote locking MoT. £1,495 07973614937

JAGUAR XJ6, 3.2 litre, R reg, 4 months MoT, 96k miles, £600 ono. Call for more details on 07594 269837.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0, 2001, 3dr, blue, full MoT, 70k, excellent condition, £750. 07561 205814.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0, 4-Dr. W reg, silver, 63,000 miles, 7 months MoT, Good runner, £299. Telephone 07954 997652.

RENAULT CLIO Absolutely fabulous, 1.2, 2006, all genuine, must sell owner going abroad. PX £1,495. 01902 762528.

RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.4, 16v, 2004, full MoT, 5 door, black, rcf, abs, s/r, good tyres, etc, £800 ono. 07747 501862.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6, 56 plate, 5-dr, black, manual, 63,000 miles, long MoT, E/W, PAS, A/C, good condition. £1,150. 07838 987643.

ROVER MG 1.8 ZS - Saloon, blue, low miles, 12 months MoT, rust free example, £950. May part ex. 01902 530123. 07747 740971.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI 2003, 129,000 miles, gleaming black, all usual gt refinements, stunning vehicle £850 ono 07887 848196.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI 2003, Cat C, 129k, gleaming black, all usual gt refinements, stunning vehicle £850 ono 07887 848196.

VW POLO 1.4 CL, T reg, petrol, 5dr hatchback, MoT'd. £325. 01384 279200.

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scrap vehicles

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spares & accessories

accessories & services

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10

Personals

general

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PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box 419673

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may lead to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box 410127

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384

ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4693 Box 419701

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs own flat. Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTm male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

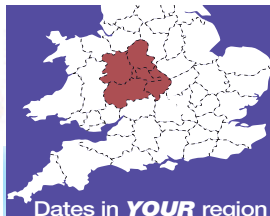
KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTm tactile male farmer for LTR. Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417



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PETE 47, enjoys walking, meals out, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant, with similar interests for adult fun text only. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063152

MALE 60s WLTm genuine fun lady, 50/60s nights in or out, likes swimming, walks, music, good food etc for friendship or more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4852727

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out. I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, tactile, GSOH. Kidderminster based, hoping to love again with a decent loving lady. Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450

45 year old male with varied interests WLTm female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4215582

TOM, a young 59 active attractive male, 5ft8, slimish & fit with decent looks & friendly nature, many interests, looking for lady similar age. Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340

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COLIN, 48, seeks large cuddly lady between 45-55 for LTR, must like hugs, kisses, cuddles and holding hands. Text only to Mailbox no: 4906088

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Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure/web page for details.

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Enjoy a tour of Funchal, taking in the market, the Patricio and Gouveia embroidery workshop, Se Cathedral and the Pereira d'Oliveira wine cellar, where visitors can sample four Madeiran wines. The city is also known for famous people who have lived there, such as Christopher Columbus, Winston Churchill, and more recently, Cristiano Ronaldo.



During the half day trip to the botanical garden of Quinta do Bom Sucesso, take in the enormous variety of tropical plants and birds and see Colombo, a resident 47-year-old giant tortoise, at Quinta Jardins do Lago.

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Head north-west to see the famous lava swimming pools of Porto Moniz and through the tunnels and along coastal cliffs to the Sao Vicente.

INFO

- Return flights
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- Included drinks during meals (limited to aperitifs, local wine and beer, soft drinks and local spirits)
- Tours of Funchal and Western Madeira
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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Yeltz notch up their second win in a week

Halesowen 2 Skelmersdale 1
HALESOWEN got their second win in a week, beating Skelmersdale 2-1 at home to go ninth in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier league. It was a good performance by John Hill's men, though Daniel Platt in goal had to make a number of saves.

After a slow opening, Halesowen took the lead on 14 minutes when Platt's headed clearance eventually found Keyon Reffel on the right.

He squared the ball to Aaron Daniels who turned and finished the move off beautifully.

Platt denied Jack Phillips twice and Kenny Strickland, but it was generally the Yeltz who were making most of the play during the game.

Skelmersdale worked hard looking for an equaliser in the second half, substitute Louis Corrigan went close but again Platt was in top form.

Halesowen increased their lead on 72 minutes when Reece Hales ran across the edge of the box and shot into the corner of the net.

Skelmersdale captain Robert McIntosh reduced the deficit with a fierce shot into the net four minutes from time but they couldn't force an equaliser.

But Yeltz held on and will host Mickleover for their next match.

Team: Platt; Connolly; Griffiths (Cooper 45); Denny (C); Elvins; Lewis; Charlton; Bragoli; Reffel (Gueyes 80); Daniels (Waite 74); Hales.

Subs not used: Morrison; Sargeant

Attendance: 303

Nest reserves see the lead snatched away

Wrens Nest Res 3 Newport 4
WRENS Nest went into the game on the back of a six nil thumping at the hands of Bilbrook FC.

They stormed into the game and found themselves 2-0 up in the first 20 minutes through excellent work between Gilbert, Bratt-Wyton and Morris.

Newport then got three goals back before half time.

The second half was again a tight affair with plenty of chances for both sides and Newport went further ahead when a cross was converted to make it 4-2.

Wrens Nest caused late drama when they scored a third goal through play between Gwinnell, Bratt-Wyton and Morris which resulted in Morris calmly slotted home for his hat-trick.

TD have worst game possible

Team Dudley 0 Shenstone Pathfinders 5
TEAM Dudley's manager described his team's performance as the worst of his tenure (and club history).

TD got their just deserts against Shenstone which left few in a red and black shirt with any credit.

The home side struggled to get going in wet conditions with manager Stewart Holmes making one change from last week's point at Wryley.

Ryan Passey entered the midfield fray for Lee Clarke who was rested to the bench.

They should have taken the lead when Seb Finkle fired over inside the area but other efforts were simply held by Green from distance. Nathan Jones had another effort saved but the efforts within the TD camp were questionable as Shenstone wanted every single ball more than their opposition, they did the basics better and got their rewards just two minutes before the half time whistle.

If TD had gone in at 0-0 they'd have been a very lucky side so when Alex Leonard scored on 43 minutes it was more expected than anything.

A free kick was whipped in, Kyle Green punched the ball but it hit a Shenstone shin, fell to Leonard, the Shenstone captain, on the goal line to finish.

Then, on the stroke of half time it was 2-0, punishing a high line ball through the back four saw James Hawthorne beaten for pace, Finkle managed to get to the ball before the onrushing Kyle Green and the striker poked in.

Four minutes after the break TD lost their leader. James Hawthorne was forced off with injury and replaced by Lee Clarke pushing Ryan Passey in centre half.

On 58 minutes it was three as Finkle again netted for the visitors.

Joshua Haston made it 4-0 just two minutes later as he ran through and rounded Kyle Green to finish calmly.

Shenstone finished the scoring on 87 as Joshua Haston got his brace with a smart turn and finish past Kyle Green.

Glassboys grab a first round place

Stourbridge 3 Kidderminster 0
THERE were two distinct storylines played out at Stourbridge on Saturday.

One was of celebration at a home team who, for the fourth time in seven seasons, are into the first round of the FA Cup.

The other was of despair and no little bewilderment at a new low for Kidderminster Harriers, during a campaign which in the space of just two-and-a-half months has already seen several.

On paper, with the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Glassboys knocking off their National League rivals, this will go down as a shock. To those who have followed the fortunes of both clubs this season it was nothing of the sort.

Even so, cup victories over teams two divisions above can rarely have come easier.

Stourbridge were in such command that even their manager Gary Hackett, having spent most of the week insisting his side were the underdogs, remarked on how comfortable a victory it was.

Limpness

Such was the limpness of Harriers performance that, barely two hours after the final whistle, chairman Rod Brown was accusing players of lacking "passion and desire".

Head coach Dave Hockaday's post-game interviews carried the same sentiment, if not language.

Having taken over the Aggborough hotseat earlier this month, the 57-year-old is under no illusions as to the task ahead as he seeks to fashion a team packed with loanees and journeymen into one which can make a fist of surviving in non-league's top flight.

There cannot be many to have worked under Leeds United chairman Massimo Cellino who have found a tougher job elsewhere. Hockaday, arguably, has done precisely that.

In truth, it was his team selection, most notably the decision to replace Dean Snedker with Alex Palmer in goal, which came under scrutiny. The Albion loanee was at fault twice inside the opening quarter-hour as Stour took control.

First he miscued an attempted punch clear before letting Matt Dodd's shot squirm under his body to give the Glassboys a fifth-minute lead.

Ten minutes later, he remained rooted to the spot as Justin Richards – who later said he expected to get his "head punched off" by the keeper – stole unmarked behind the defence to glance home Leon Broadhurst's free-kick.

Harriers huffed, puffed and hit the woodwork through Jordan Jones but lacked the intensity of their hosts, who got a third when Chris Lait netted from 25 yards seven minutes after the break.

For Hackett and Stourbridge, there is hope for promotion. Stourbridge (4-4-2): Solly 6, Green 7, Scarr 7,



Former Harrier, Justin Richards, celebrates his goal that put Stourbridge 2-0 up Photo by Will Kilpatrick..

Pierpoint 6, Smikle 7, Dodd 7 (Wright 88), Tonks 7, Broadhurst 8, Lait 7 (Canavan 64), Hawley 7 (Knight 86), Richards 7. Subs not used: Harris, Wright, Penny, Price (gk).

Harriers (4-3-3): Palmer 4, Hodgkiss 5, Howkins 5, Langmead 3, Young 4, Dinsley 4, Maxwell 5, Whitfield 5, Jones 5 (Hassan 58 5), Styche 5 (Singh 75 5), Francis-Angol 6 (Green 79). Subs not used: Rowe-Turner, Tunncliffe, Forsyth, Snedker (gk).

Tipton pull out the draw with late strike

Tipton Town 1 Willenhall Town 1
A keenly fought local derby saw Willenhall take the lead near the end only to be pegged back by a game Tipton side well into injury time.

This result in itself was a triumph of sorts for the home club after an unenviable series of heavy losses.

Early pressure was put on the home goal and new keeper Sandip Bains punched the ball clear from Matt Dorgan's head following a threatening cross from the right flank.

Still calling the tune Willenhall may well have netted, home skipper, Danny Bellis denying them with a timely interception.

Poor defending by Tipton on 19 minutes should have been punished but Eddie Wilson's curling cross just evaded his colleagues.

In the 25th minute Willenhall were awarded a hotly disputed penalty and the keeper plunged full-length to turn the ball away for a corner kick.

Tipton were clearly gaining more in confidence as the game progressed and went near to breaking the deadlock on 32 minutes.

Jon Crawford's searching drive fully extending visiting keeper, Tim Patterson.

Tipton's hearts were seemingly broken in the 88th minute after avoiding yet another high scoring defeat when Carlin at last forced the ball home. 0-1

The home youngsters responded with vigour and in a do or die final effort equalised in the 92nd minute after poor defending by the visitors let in substitute Singh-Dosange to tie up the scores.

Dudley keep streak going with shutout

Bewdley 0 Dudley sports 2
DUDLEY Sports continued their good run with a hard-earned three points at Bewdley.

The game was played on a wet and sticky pitch making good football difficult.

An even first half ended goalless after both sides squandered chances.

Sports started to take control and were rewarded in the 60th minute when Tom Watkins finished off a fine move when shooting home from the edge of the box.

Bewdley tried to get back into the game but although having a lot of possession never had a single shot at goal.

Sports made sure of the three points when Sheppy ran clear to finish in style.

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Glassboys earn their
place in first round
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Norwich bear the Brunt of Albion strikes

Norwich 0 West Brom 1
STATISTICS never tell the whole story but the fact Chris Brunt had more shots on target against Norwich than the whole team managed against Sunderland does indicate how different the two 1-0s were.

Two long-range efforts with the Northern Irishman's trusty left boot in the first half were eclipsed by a thunderous shot with his weaker right foot in the second that brought a terrific full-stretch save from birthday boy John Ruddy.

Tony Pulis' detractors, and there are many of them, will argue this was just another 1-0 win from a man who has built a career on them.

All four of Albion's victories so far this season have been by that scoreline and four of the seven league wins Pulis masterminded in the second half of last season also finished 1-0.

But what Saturday's scoreline doesn't tell you is the manner in which it was won.

Opting to play 4-4-2 away from home was an unusual move from Pulis and in the first 20 minutes it left Darren Fletcher and Claudio Jacob horribly exposed.

But Albion would be rewarded for leaving two up front and, after weathering an early storm, they grew into the game, largely thanks to the link-up play between Salomon Rondon and Saido Berahino.

The home defence looked nervy – it looked like one that had conceded six goals last time out – and Albion's front pair preyed on that.

The interplay between Rondon, Berahino, James McClean and Stephane Sessegnon was pleasing on the eye.

Battling Tivs in a triple fightback to share the points

Loughborough Dynamo 3 Tivendale 3
TIVIDALE showed a different side to themselves with a steely display and a never say die attitude coming back three times.

All this despite receiving a spate of yellow cards and a straight red.

The home side took the lead in the 32nd minute when the dangerous Leandro Browne played in Luke Edwards and he fired home first time past Turner.

The lead lasted just two minutes when McCormack could only beat away a fierce Sam Adkins drive, but the ball fell kindly to the onrushing midfielder Malachi Farquharson who stabbed the ball home.

On 37 minutes Tivendale were reduced to 10 men when defender Jordan Cullinane-Liburd was shown a straight red. By this time though Tivendale had three names in the book. From the resulting free kick Luke Edwards prodded home his and Dynamo's second. Tivendale were back on level terms in the 53rd minute when an Adkins corner was headed home by Sterling. Danny Edwards beat Turner with a terrific drive for Dynamo.

Tivendale equalised for the third time in the 73rd minute through Christ Sterling.

Universe conspires to bring Wolves loss

Wolves 1 Middlesbrough 3

KENNY Jackett has made some questionable decisions this season, but there were factors out of his control at play here as Wolves suffered a third successive defeat.

He saw his ever-diminishing squad deprived of yet another defender when the unfortunate Korney Hause, busy producing his most confident and assured performance of the season, was stretched off just six minutes into the second half.

Then he saw a referee who wasn't even supposed to be on the field miserably fail to control an over-zealous (to put it kindly) Boro team intent

Football

to roughing Wolves up. They were deservedly in front at half-time and, had James Henry not spurned a wonderful chance for 2-0 on 66 minutes, they would surely have won this match.

That they didn't was down to a combination of defensive ineptitude and bad fortune.

Emiliano Martinez, with the attributes he clearly possesses, could go on to be a top class goalkeeper, fit to grace the Arsenal No.1 spot.

He is not that goalkeeper at the moment. After Martinez allowed Diego Fabbrini's tame shot

to trickle fairly gently past his despairing dive, Wolves imploded defensively, and the game was lost.

The Wolves boss admitted afterwards that Boro had 'too much' for his side. In doing so he again staunchly protected his players who, despite all the positives of the first 71 minutes, contributed to their own downfall with the individual errors that simply will not go away.

Wolves need to start taking responsibility for their actions that are threatening to end what looks like an increasingly unlikely promotion charge before it even had time to begin.

Jackett is by no means blameless.

BOSS PROUD OF HEATHENS

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger said he was proud of his side despite their Knockout Cup Final agony at the hands of Eastbourne.

With the future of the world famous club in jeopardy, the injury-hit Heathens came within a whisker of bowing out in style before losing 47-43.

Needing to become the first side this year to defeat the Eagles at Arlington to retain their crown, their hopes appeared slim as they slipped 12 points behind early on.

However, they launched a dramatic late surge to force a last-heat decider before narrowly missing out on an unforgettable triumph.

Although disappointed to miss out on some silverware to end what has been a tough season, team manager Pottinger was full of praise for the valiant efforts of his depleted side.

"Of course it's disappointing to lose on aggregate by such a small margin, but I'm very proud of all the lads," Pottinger said. "Although we would have liked to end the season with a major piece of silverware we certainly can hold our heads up high after that performance."

Example

No.1 Max Clegg once again led by example, recording three vital race wins early on to keep his side in touching distance and guesting at No.3 Danny Ayres impressed with 11 points.

Arron Mogridge joined forces with young reserve Jack Smith for a dramatic 5-1 in the penultimate race to set up a nervy finale, and although Luke Harris struggled it was a brave performance from the Heathens to end the campaign.

Cradley staged a dramatic comeback in their Knockout Cup Grand Final first leg, which was cut short due to time restrictions.

The Motor Market Heathens fought from being eight points down to ensure they go into Saturday's second leg tied with Eastbourne.

Perry Barr's track curfew meant only 10 heats could be run in what was an incident-packed meeting with the scores level at 30 points apiece.

The region was hit by torrential downpours 48 hours prior to the meeting and conditions were far from ideal as track staff repeatedly sent out



Cradley Heathens last home meeting of the season, Heathen's Danny Ayres, blue, and Max Clegg, red

machinery to try and make the conditions better for the two teams.

Spills and falls played their part in a number of heat outcomes and both sets of riders deserve plenty of credit for just attempting to race initially.

In a meeting that constantly swung from one way to the other, it looked as though the Heathens were going to get off to the best possible start.

Skipper Max Clegg and guest Danny Ayres sat on a 5-1 maximum for the first two laps of the opening race.

However, Clegg struggled to find a racing line

that suited him and was eventually passed by both Eastbourne riders for a share of the spoils.

Tyler Govier and guest reserve Jack Smith missed the gate on a night where making a good start was imperative and found themselves on the receiving end of a 5-1 to give the visitors an early lead.

Heat three saw the hosts bounce back instantly with a 5-1 of their own. In-form Arron Mogridge held off the Eastbourne duo to collect a paid win while Ayres made it two out of two at the front.

Back-to-back 5-1s saw the Heathens snatch a draw at the death in what could potentially be the club's final ever home meeting.

Garde is the frontrunner for Villa job

FORMER Lyon boss Remi Garde has become the surprise early front-runner to succeed Tim Sherwood as Villa manager.

The 49-year-old Frenchman was installed as the odds-on favourite with most bookmakers just hours after Sherwood was sacked on Sunday morning, following the club's sixth straight Premier League defeat.

Sources in France claimed Villa and Garde were in 'advanced talks' while television station Canal Plus, where Garde is currently employed as a pundit, also confirmed talks had taken place.

Former Manchester United boss David Moyes, in Spain with Real Sociedad, is also in the frame along with Nigel Pearson and Brendan Rodgers, following their departures from Leicester and Liverpool respectively.

Interim manager Kevin MacDonald is expected to remain in charge for Villa's next two games, away to Southampton in the Capital One Cup fourth round and then at Tottenham on Saturday.

Of all the candidates, Garde is by far the most intriguing.

Best known in England for his three-year spell as a midfielder at Arsenal during the late 1990s, he is a hugely respected coach in France and had talks with Newcastle in the summer before the Magpies appointed Steve McClaren.

He stepped down from the Lyon hot-seat in the summer of 2014 for personal reasons but his knowledge of Ligue 1 in particular would appeal to Villa, who brought in four players from the French top flight in the summer.

Sherwood, meanwhile, is expected to receive a £2million pay-off – the equivalent of a year's salary – after being sacked just eight months into his Villa Park reign.

Darlo enjoying five games undefeated

Darlston 4 Wrens Nest 1

DARLSTON are now unbeaten in five games thanks to a 4-1 West Midlands Division One home win over local neighbours Wrens Nest.

Mark Swann's eighth goal of the season broke the deadlock and the hosts added a second when Swann's close-range header was blocked but forced home by Ryan McAllister.

Straight from the restart, Todd Warner halved the arrears but Darlo pushed clear with goals from Leon Taylor and Tyrone Atkinson with a close range effort as the hosts broke the deadlock on 32 minutes after dominating most of the first half. Ryan McAllister finished the scoring.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterly, Telford, Thursday, October 29, 2015



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